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Japan

Spokesman: U.S. Ignores Advice on Deficit

OW1201130593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry spokesman Tuesday said Japan is disappointed the United States has not heeded Japan's advice on how to tackle the huge U.S. federal budget deficit.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa, speaking to the foreign media, made the remark while urging a more "equal" relationship between the two countries with a new administration headed by Bill Clinton.

Japan, he said, is "not happy" that in Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks between the two countries, which are aimed at removing structural barriers to trade, the United States was less responsive than Japan.

"The American side came up with certain suggestions and so did we," Hanabusa said, adding that while Japan has acted on many U.S. suggestions, "we have not seen corresponding efforts made by the Americans, like on how to decrease the American budget deficit."

Hanabusa's remark follows Clinton's acknowledgement Monday that the U.S. deficit is larger than he realized and that he probably cannot fulfill his campaign pledge of cutting it in half within four years.

U.S. Scientists Win 50-Million-Yen Prize

OW1201100393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—The 1993 Japan Prize will go to two Americans, a seismologist and the developer of a DNA chain reaction, the Science and Technology Foundation of Japan announced Tuesday.

Dr. Frank Press, president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, won in the category of safety engineering and disaster mitigation, and Dr. Kary B. Mullis for molecular and cellular technology in medicine.

The awards were announced at a news conference in Tokyo by Jiro Kondo, president of the Science Council of Japan and chairman of the selection panel.

He said the panel chose from among 200 nominees for the safety engineering and disaster category and about 400 in the molecular and cellular technology in medicine category.

The Science and Technology Foundation of Japan, a private foundation supported by industry and business, awards the prize in two categories each year. This year's prize is the ninth awarded since its inception in 1985.

Dr. Press, 68, of Washington, D.C., is a geophysicist who first proposed that the dispersion of earthquake surface wave motions can be used to study the structure of the earth's crust and upper mantle.

He also conceived the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction which began in 1990.

Dr. Mullis, 48, is a private consultant on nucleic acid chemistry and lives in La Jolla, California.

His development of the polymerase chain reaction revolutionized molecular biology, medicine and many other related fields by enabling the production of specified DNA sequences without resorting to cloning. DNA is found in cells and is the basic building block of life.

The recipients will each get 50 million yen—about 385,000 dollars—at a ceremony in Tokyo on April 28.

Masami Ito, the foundation's chairman, said that despite the short history of the Japan Prize, the organization is trying to "catch up" with the Nobel Prize.

"We have been making greater efforts to have a higher evaluation of the prize," Ito said.

"The Nobel Prize is more for the discovery of scientific phenomenon. But the Japan Prize looks into the applications of science and technology as well as discoveries."

Ito said next year's prize will be for the categories of aerospace technologies and psychology and psychiatry.

Miyazawa Comments Further on SE Asia Trip

BK1201023993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 93 p 4

["Excerpts" of interview with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa by BANGKOK POST editor Phaisan Sicharatchanya and "separate answers to written questions prior to his departure from Tokyo"]

[Text] [Phaisan] What are the key objectives of your ASEAN trip? What do you expect to achieve from this trip?

[Miyazawa] The primary purpose of my visit is to reaffirm that, as the international community seeks a new order for peace and prosperity in the post-Cold War era of today, there is no change in the importance with which Japan views the ASEAN and to speak in depth with the leaders of the countries I am visiting about the current state and future outlook for the Asia-Pacific region and to enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

I believe that the source of strength in the Asia-Pacific region lies in the diversity and openness of the region, and through the policy speech which I will deliver in Bangkok, I hope to make clear my thoughts on the new role for the Asia-Pacific region and cooperation between Japan and ASEAN. As an Asia-Pacific nation which enjoys mature partnership of thinking together and acting together with the countries of ASEAN, Japan expects, through this visit, to deepen policy dialogue with these nations, which together constitute an important factor for the stability of the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, Japan will be hosting the G-7 Summit in Tokyo in July 1993 and I am scheduled to serve as Chairman. The frank exchange of opinions with the members of ASEAN which will be possible through this visit, and later on, by inviting the Philippine President and the Prime Minister of Singapore to Japan, will be extremely beneficial in helping Japan to reflect the views and aspirations of the members of ASEAN to the world. With that in mind, I think that this visit is timely and significant.

[Phaisan] What new role does Japan see itself playing in the Southeast Asian regional security and economic framework in the post-Cold War era?

[Miyazawa] As the nations of the world seek to create an order for peace and prosperity in the post-Cold War era, I have been keenly aware of the need to consider the position of the Asia-Pacific region in the international community and the role that Japan should play therein.

Thus, in May of last year I inaugurated The Round Table on Japan and the Asia-Pacific Region in the Twenty First Century, comprising learned members of the private sector with a variety of expertise. At the end of last year, that Round Table suggested that "promoting openness" and "respecting plurality" should be the two key concepts.

I intend to consider Japan's policy on the basis of this perspective and with the aim of promoting peace and stability in this region.

I will outline the details of what I have in mind during my speech in Bangkok on January 16. For now, let me say that there are many views regarding both what should be perceived as threats and how security should be ensured and it is not possible to apply a European-type security scheme as such to this region.

I feel it is important for now to proceed with cooperation in two areas.

First, we should work to resolve such specific disputes and conflicts as the Cambodian issue, territorial issues of islands in the South China Sea and issues on the Korean Peninsula through the frameworks most appropriate to the specific circumstances.

Second, we should promote dialogue on matters of common interest and common concern in the region and thereby enhance the transparency of our respective policies as well as our sense of mutual reassurance. Highly significant in this regard is the political and security dialogue which has been actively under way at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference since last year. I think that some picture of the future of this region's security should be arrived at through such efforts.

The openness of the Asia-Pacific region has fostered the dynamic economic development of this region and it is important to maintain and enhance that openness in the future. For that purpose, we must first of all prevent the world from moving towards protectionism and the appearance of blocs.

It is imperative to maintain and strengthen the open multilateral trading system centred on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and we need to achieve an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

Furthermore, based on the fundamental concept of open cooperation, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has a very significant role to play, and Japan intends to expand its cooperation with the countries and regions which participate in APEC in order to promote greater development of its activities.

Furthermore, Japan intends to continue to advance wide-ranging bilateral cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, technology transfers and Official Development Assistance in order to contribute to maintaining and enhancing the dynamism and openness of the Asia-Pacific region.

[Phaisan] Is Japan prepared to take up the role of a new regional policeman in light of the reduced American military presence and the disintegration of the (former) Soviet Union's influence?

[Miyazawa] Regional peace and stability cannot be maintained only by a certain country acting as a policeman. Rather, regional peace and stability should be realised by all of the relevant nations in the region recognizing their shared responsibility, sharing the burden thereof and making constant efforts.

Still, in the event that an emergency situation were to arise in this region and military force were required to contain and resolve it given the diverse and complex historical, cultural, political and economic background of this region, the role currently played by the US military is irreplaceable. This fact will not change in the foreseeable future.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that the US, recognising the importance that maintaining its commitment holds for the peace and stability of the region, intends to continue to maintain its military presence in the region even after the withdrawal of its forces from the Philippines.

From this perspective, it is essential that a long-term vision for security in this region be made clear. For the time being, I feel that the most effective approach is to cooperate for the resolution of local disputes while at the same time pursuing security dialogue on a region-wide basis.

Recognising that Japan's role in this region is not just an economic role, but also an increasingly large political role, Japan has been making efforts such as the dispatch of personnel to take part in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia under the International Peace Cooperation Law enacted last year.

Japan intends to continue to actively cooperate with the US, the members of ASEAN and other countries of the region to further promote peace and stability in the region. I would like to state clearly that, as Japan proceeds with these efforts, it will bear in mind the lessons of history and never walk the path of a military power.

[Phaisan] Former Thai prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan recently raised the proposal for a US$2 billion Indochina Development Fund to be sponsored by Japan. Will your government support its implementation?

[Miyazawa] Although I am not aware of the exact details of former prime minister Chatchai's proposal regarding the concept of establishing a fund, it is estimated that the process of development in Indochina will create great capital demands and I believe that the former prime minister's proposal stems from a recognition of this need.

Japan has already begun to actively assist the nations of Indochina through bilateral economic cooperation and I think that in the future it will be necessary to make further use of the Asian Development Bank and other international financial institutions. At the present, I do not think that there is a need to immediately establish a new fund in addition to these although it could be considered as a future topic, depending on the future capital needs of the countries of Indochina and the state of progress in economic and social development. Partnership with the ASEAN countries is very much on our mind as we consider proceeding with cooperation for Indochina, and we consider advice from Thailand, which borders on countries of Indochina, to be particularly valuable.

Japan is already implementing preparations for tripartite cooperation among Japan, the members of ASEAN, and Cambodia comprising technical cooperation in agriculture and other sectors in order to promote the resettlement of refugees. Japan would like to continue to engage in dialogue with Thailand and search for a range of possibilities.

Tokyo To Offer Indonesia 2.4 Million Dollars

OW1201040193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 12 Jan 93

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Jakarta, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japan will offer Indonesia a grant of 2.4 million dollars Tuesday to help finance Jakarta's programs for assisting poorer countries, Japanese officials said.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will make the offer during a two-hour meeting with President Suharto in a symbolic gesture to shore up "South-South cooperation," the officials said.

As chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Suharto noted the need for closer economic cooperation among developing countries at a non-aligned summit he hosted last September.

Part of the Japanese offer is 1.7 million dollars for acceptance of trainees from other developing nations, the officials said.

It also calls for 500,000 dollars to be distributed through the United Nations population fund for an Indonesian-managed family planning project in Bangladesh, and 200,000 dollars through the U.N. development program for an Indonesian-run program to develop human resources in other countries.

During the meeting at the 200-year-old Merdeka (independence) Palace in Jakarta, Miyazawa will also seek Suharto's understanding of Japan's intention to play a more assertive role in the political and security areas, the officials said.

Miyazawa arrived in Jakarta on Monday on the first leg of an eight-day visit to four Southeast Asian countries, which will also take him to Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei.

Miyazawa will also promise Suharto to bring up the issue of a dialogue between the developed and developing world as one of key topics at the summit of the world's seven major economic powers Japan is to host in July.

During a dinner he hosted in honor of Miyazawa on Monday, Suharto urged Japan to take the lead in spurring North-South dialogue.

Suharto made a similar call at the non-aligned summit and Japan appreciates such a position, which has broken with the past style of confrontation with the North, the officials said.

The two leaders are also expected to confirm continued support for United Nations efforts to bring peace to Cambodia through the Supreme National Council which, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, represents all four feuding Cambodian parties.

Indonesia, together with France, cochaired an international peace conference for strife-torn Cambodia, where the peace process is in jeopardy due to the Khmer Rouge faction's refusal to disarm its powerful army.

Suharto, on the other hand, will take up Japan's recent shipment of plutonium from France and renew a demand for a tariff cut on Indonesian plywood, a senior Indonesian official said.

After the meeting, Miyazawa will lay a wreath at the national heroes cemetery in Kalibata, southern Jakarta.

The cemetery was built in 1954 to honor some 4,200 people such as politicians, soldiers and civilians who made distinguished contributions to the country, including 16 Japanese who fought for Indonesia's independence.

The prime minister will later have a first-hand look at a Japanese-financed project to expand and modernize a railway network in the greater Jakarta metropolitan area.

Suharto urged Miyazawa on Monday to observe this and other results of Indonesia's development in the past 25 years of his rule, assisted largely by Japan, which is the country's biggest aid donor, investor and trading partner.

Miyazawa will fly to Malaysia on Wednesday before proceeding to Thailand and Brunei. He will return home January 18.

Accord Signed on Former Soviet Republics Aid

OW1201075593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0717 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japan has concluded an accord with the republics of the former Soviet Union on establishment of a committee to coordinate Japanese aid to facilitate economic reforms there, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters the so-called Cooperation Committee was established earlier in the day with initial resources of 100 million dollars for emergency humanitarian assistance.

That amount was announced by Japan at an international conference held in Tokyo last October on assistance to the former Soviet republics.

Hanabusa said the committee's secretariat is to be established in Tokyo.

The committee's membership will consist of the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow, a Foreign Ministry official appointed by the foreign minister, and one representative from each of the 12 former Soviet republics concerned.

The republics are Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Training of Russian Flight Controllers Planned

OW1201094393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Eight Russian flight controllers will undergo training in Japan January 18-30 as part of Japan's technology aid program to the Russian republic, the Transport Ministry reported Tuesday.

Participating in the project will be experts assigned to airports at major cities in the Far East, including Khabarovsk and Vladivostok, ministry officials said.

The Russian trainees will visit the new Tokyo International Airport at Narita, east of Tokyo, and other air traffic control facilities during their stay in Japan, the officials said.

Japan has provided training for employees in railway and distribution services as part of its help to Russia.

Tokyo Views Iraqi 'Incursion' Into Kuwait

OW1201043893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0427 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japan will urge Iraq to abide by the United Nations Security Council resolution on the Gulf war ceasefire following a reported Iraqi incursion into Kuwait, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Tuesday.

Kono told a press conference that the incursion is against the U.N. resolution on observance of national borders and that Japan will call on Iraq to refrain from such actions.

Masaki Konishi, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's U.N. bureau, is expected to meet Iraqi Ambassador to Japan Rashid al-Rifa'i later in the day to convey Japan's call, Kono said.

On Monday, U.N. military observers said some 150 Iraqis crossed into Kuwait and started dismantling warehouses in defiance of the U.N. Security Council resolution.

Protest Condemns Actions, Decree

OW1201114593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japan on Tuesday condemned Iraq's recent incursions into Kuwait and its decree banning overflights of its territory by UN aircraft, Foreign Ministry officials said.

They said Iraqi Ambassador Dr. Rashid al-Rifa'i was summoned to the ministry to receive the protest. He was met by Masaki Konishi, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry's UN Bureau, who stated Japan's position during a 40-minute meeting.

Konishi was quoted as telling al-Rifa'i that Japan is "deeply disturbed" at Iraq's declaration last Thursday that it will no longer allow UN aircraft to fly over its territory. The United Nations says the flights are necessary to check on the presence of weapons of mass destruction.

Konishi said the Iraqi move constituted a major violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. He said Iraq's behavior can only be deemed regrettable and unacceptable by Japan and the international community.

Officials said Konishi "condemned" incidents on Sunday and Monday in which Iraqis crossed into former Iraqi-controlled territory ceded to Kuwait by the United Nations, to seize weapons from a warehouse.

Al-Rifa'i, in response, reaffirmed his government's position that while Baghdad is willing to respect Security Council resolutions, current actions by members of the Gulf war coalition are infringing on Iraq's sovereign status.

Officials said he said that UN inspectors should use only Iraqi aircraft for their inspections.

Reported Consideration of Sanctions Law Denied

OW1201104993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry on Tuesday denied a newspaper report that Japan is studying possible legislation that would allow swift imposition of economic sanctions in the event of an international emergency such as the Persian Gulf crisis.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents that the "speculative" report appearing in the Tuesday morning edition of the Tokyo-based SANKEI SHIMBUN has "no substance."

The report said the contemplated legislation might also be intended for use in retaliating against unilateral protectionist sanctions that other countries may place on trade with Japan.

Japan came under criticism during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis for its slow response in imposing sanctions against Iraq.

Watanabe Spoke as 'Politician' on SDF Role

OW1201105293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe was speaking as a politician, not as a foreign minister, when he recently proposed that United Nations peacekeeping be made the main duty of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF), a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"We do not consider that he made this proposal formally as foreign minister," spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents in a regularly scheduled press conference.

"This is just a statement by a politican calling to the nation's attention that there is a problem ... not a complete proposal as a government representative," Hanabusa said.

In Watanabe's January 5 press conference, he also said the SDF should be equipped with more long-range transport aircraft and ships to enhance its ability to move supplies, equipment, and personnel overseas to help UN-led humanitarian, peacekeeping, and peacemaking efforts.

Japan has long avoided acquiring long-range military craft because of Asian wariness about any increase in Japan's ability to project military power.

Tokyo To Propose Strengthening Ties With EC

OW1201092593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] London, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japan will propose a comprehensive package designed to strengthen its economic ties with the European Community and promote bilateral cooperation for aid to developing nations, government officials said Tuesday.

The officials said the proposal will be set forth by Yoshiro Mori, minister of international trade and industry, at a ministerial meeting between Japan and the EC in Brussels Friday.

The 17-point package also will include measures to promote collaboration between Japanese and European enterprises in the investment field and the establishment of an expert panel to enhance aid to developing countries, the officials said.

Japan will pledge to the EC it will offer information concerning the investment environment in Asia, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, they said.

Japan and Asian countries will cosponsor seminars in European countries to promote their investments in Asia and provide them greater access to projects with funds provided through Japan's official development assistance, the officials said.

Japan in turn will receive information on conditions in the Middle East and Africa, they said.

They said Japan also will support efforts by European enterprises to promote exports to Japan and step up imports from the region in a move to allay displeasure over the growing trade imbalance between Japan and Europe.

Japanese enterprises will be urged to provide training for young engineers in European countries, the officials said.

Tokyo To Give $500 Million to IDB Fund

OW1201110593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japan will channel 500 million dollars over the next five years into a newly established fund to facilitate private-sector investments in Latin America and the Caribbean, a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced Tuesday.

The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), established by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), will initially comprise Japan, the United States, Chile, Peru, and Honduras, spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters.

Hanabusa said the fund will extend grants, technical cooperation, and investments for the promotion of small-scale enterprises in the two regions.

He said the total amount of contributions to the fund by prospective donors is expected to reach about 1.26 billion dollars, of which Japan and the U.S. will provide 500 million dollars each over the next five years.

Last February, at a meeting in Washington, over 20 countries indicated an interest in contributing to the fund.

Diet Session To Begin 22 Jan With Speeches

OW1201112193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—The next regular session of the Diet will begin on January 22 with a policy speech by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and three others by key cabinet ministers, parliamentary officials said Tuesday.

The House of Representatives' Steering Committee held a council meeting to set the schedule of the opening day of the 126th Diet session and the timetable for the immediate days following.

According to the schedule, Miyazawa will address the plenary session of the lower house and the House of Councillors after the opening ceremony of the 150-day Diet sitting.

Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi is among the three cabinet ministers delivering speeches. He will focus on the government's budgetary policy.

Representatives of political parties are set to query the premier and other cabinet ministers for two days each in the two houses of the Diet—on January 25 and 26 in the first chamber, and on January 26 and 27 in the second, the officials said.

For this reason, they said the lower house budget committee—the center stage for a battle between the ruling and opposition parties over the unsolved Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal—probably won't begin full-blown deliberations until January 28.

Other issues to be taken up include sweeping political reform efforts centering on the introduction of a single-seat constituency system that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) wants for lower house elections, and the lifting of Japan's virtual ban on rice imports.

Opposition sources said the LDP is likely to be urged to cooperate in unraveling the huge scandal involving the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. trucking firm in the runup to general elections expected this year.

Major opposition parties are poised to demand that former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa testify before the Diet under oath about his role in the scandal, the sources said.

They also are likely to demand that former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita be summoned again before the Diet as a sworn witness to explain allegations that the mob played a primary role in quashing a right-wing group's smear campaign against him in 1987.

Takeshita at the time was seeking the presidency of the LDP, which he won. The position automatically made him prime minister.

Takeshita, who testified twice before the Diet in the last extraordinary Diet session, has denied the mob played a role in his political elevation.

In addition he has rejected opposition calls that he resign as a gesture of overall responsibility for the affair.

The opposition parties, in their bid to get to the heart of the scandal which already cost former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru his political career, have made clear they intend to renew their call on Takeshita to quit.

The LDP has responded that any doubts about Takeshita's political integrity were dispelled when it heard his explanation at a panel hearing late last year.

Government To Boost Taxes by 79 Billion Yen

OW1201023993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0226 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—The cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday endorsed a tax reform package that would raise an additional 79 billion yen in taxes for fiscal 1993, starting April 1.

Government officials said the package features a tax increase of 125 billion yen through a consolidation and simplification of corporate tax breaks and a tightening of tax loopholes for companies that report losses.

At the same time, the package would produce a tax cut of 46 billion yen through measures such as a reduction in interest on deferred payments of inheritance taxes and increases in the tax-free limits on certain types of savings, the officials said.

They said that a 32 billion yen tax cut on an annual basis will be achieved by increasing to 3.5 million yen the tax-free savings limit allowed to elderly people for each of their bank deposits, postal savings, and government bond holdings, and by raising to 5.5 million yen the limit on each housing purchase and individual annuity plan held by corporate workers.

The 500,000 yen limit increase is scheduled to be enacted in January 1994.

Hayashi Rebuffs Call for Income Tax Cut

OW1201033493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0138 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi on Tuesday rejected calls for an income tax reduction made the previous day by the head of a major business organization, saying he has "no such thing in mind."

Hayashi, speaking at a regular press conference after a cabinet meeting, reiterated his recent remarks that passing of the fiscal 1993 budget by the Diet remains the priority for stimulating the nation's economy.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), suggested the need for an income tax reduction if measures already taken prove insufficient to boost the economy.

Hiraiwa said a tax cut should be considered even at the cost of floating debt-financing bonds, a move the Finance Ministry has been strongly rejecting.

Asked if Hiraiwa's remarks could lead to increased pressure for tax cuts, including from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Hayashi said the ministry will only make its decisions based on "logical reasoning."

Turning to the weak state of Tokyo stock prices, Hayashi said that while it is preferable that no special measures be taken, the ministry will "consider whether such measures would be necessary or not." He declined to elaborate.

The minister also said a statement by the chief of an employers' organization that no extra price hike will be offered to organized workers this spring should not negatively affect general consumer confidence.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations, said Monday that priority should be given to job security over pay raises.

Postal Ministry Views NTT's Phone Rate Cut

OW1201112493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—A senior Postal Ministry official said Tuesday a proposed long-distance rate cut by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. is not welcome since it is suspected of violating antidumping regulations.

Futoshi Shirai, director general of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry's Telecommunications Bureau, said the ministry would make a comprehensive review of NTT's rate cut proposal in relation to the company's financial conditions and basic costs for long-distance telephone service.

NTT, the domestic telecom giant, has proposed a cut of 20 yen per three minutes for its long-distance telephone charges starting in October when its leasing contracts with rival communication companies will be revised.

"A rate cut is welcome for customers but it (NTT's rate reduction) is not welcome because it amounts to a dumping practice," Shirai said.

His remark indicated the ministry was concerned that competition among rival telecommunications companies will result in the worsening of their business results.

NTT President Masashi Kojima told reporters the company may suffer a loss in the next fiscal year if the proposed rate cut is implemented.

North Korea

Defense Ministry Fetes Iranian Military Delegation

SK1201051093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces gave a reception for the visiting high-level delegation of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran led by General Commander Mohsen Rezai at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday.

Speaking at the reception, Minister O Chin-u said the peoples and Armed Forces of the two countries standing in the forefront of anti-imperialist independence established friendly relations long ago and have supported and cooperated with each other with the common aspiration for independent development against imperialism.

The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran has played a big role in achieving the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and safeguarding the gains of the revolution and national sovereignty from the imperialists' interference, subversive acts and sabotage, he noted. He wished the Iranian people and officers and men of its Armed Forces greater success in their future struggle. Speaking next, Mohsen Rezai said they considered it urgent to further strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries to cope with the changed international situation and the U.S. imperialists' moves to establish a "new order" in the international arena.

Saying the dialogues between the North and the South of Korea have come to a standstill due to plots of the U.S. imperialists, he stressed: We support the reunification proposal advanced by esteemed his excellency Kim Il-song and hope Korea will be reunified in an independent and peaceful way.

Banquet Speeches

SK1201102593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The Ministry of People's Armed Forces arranged a banquet for the visiting high-level delegation of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran at the Mansudae Assembly Hall yesterday evening.

Invited there were members of the delegation led by His Excellency Mohsen Rezai, general commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, and Hasan Taherian, Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to our country.

Comrade O Chin-u, minister of the People's Armed Forces; Kim Kwang-chin, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army; General Cho Myong-nok; and other generals and officers attended the banquet.

Comrade O Chin-u spoke at the banquet. After warmly welcoming His Excellency the General Commander and the visiting delegation of Iranian friends, he said: The DPRK and Iran are both nonaligned nations in Asia. The peoples and Armed Forces of the two countries, standing in the vanguard of anti-imperialist independence, long ago established friendly relations and since then supported and cooperated with one another with the common aspiration for independent development against imperialism, and frequently visited each other. We have created the favorable tradition of consolidating friendly relations and exchanging experiences gained in constructing a new society.

This visit by the high-level delegation of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran is the expression of friendship and solidarity of the Iranian people and Armed Forces' soldiers toward our people and the People's Army. It will contribute to developing friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries.

The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran have played a great role in winning the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and in defending the revolutionary gains and national sovereignty from imperialistic intervention and destructive acts.

We are well aware of the gains that the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Iranian people, and Armed Forces' soldiers have achieved in their struggle to construct a new society under the banner of anti-imperialist independence. We wish them greater success in their future struggle.

Noting that our people and the soldiers of the People's Army have regarded the friendly and cooperative relations with the Iranian people and armed forces' soldiers as invaluable, he stated that he was convinced that their visit to our country would bear very brilliant fruit.

His Excellency Mohsen Rezai spoke next. He said he was glad to again be visiting the beautiful DPRK. He added that he was pleased to witness the brilliant success and development effected through strong will under the leadership of President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people.

He said that, since the Islamic revolution won a victory in Iran, the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries have developed more rapidly. He added that high-level delegations have visited each other and that close cooperation in all fields, including politics, economy, and culture, have favorably proceeded between the countries.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that cooperation with the DPRK will constantly develop. He added: It is urgently necessary to further strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in a bid to cope with the changed international situation and the U.S. imperialists' moves to establish a new order in the international arena. We think that, because Iran and the DPRK have many common features, including the anti-U.S. stand, the two countries will be able to develop cooperation in various fields. He added that it is very significant for the two countries to promote cooperation in a bid to cope with the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers against the Persian Gulf and the Korean peninsula.

He pointed out that, because of the U.S. imperialists' moves, dialogue between North and South Korea had been suspended. After saying that he supports the reunification proposal put forward by His respected Excellency Kim Il-song, he stressed that Korea be reunified independently and peacefully.

Participants in the banquet hoped that the friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples and the Armed Forces of the DPRK and Iran would strengthen and develop. They wished the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il long life and good health. They wished the respected Iranian Islamic leader His Excellency Hoseyni 'Ali Khamene'i and His Excellency President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani long life and good health.

Kim Il-song Receives Delegation

SK1201114793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting high-level delegation of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran headed by General Commander Mohsen Rezai.

Minister of people's Armed Forces O Chin-u, Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army Kim Kwang-chin, General Cho Myong-nok and other officers concerned were present on the occasion.

Also on hand were Iranian Ambassador to Korea Hasan Taherian and his embassy officials.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The head of the delegation presented a gift to him. He arranged a luncheon for the guests.

Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK1201115393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the general commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran on a visit to Korea.

General Commander Mohsen Rezai handed the gift to Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u.

Choe-U-chin Message Proposes Joint Nuclear Committee Meeting, Contact

SK1101124393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1110 GMT 11 Jan 93

["Telephone message" from Choe U-chin, DPRK chairman of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, sent to ROK Chairman Kong No-myong on 11 January—read by announcer]

[Text] With a view to overcoming the difficulties obstructing the joint committee, at the end of last year the North side made a reasonable proposal to have committee meetings and contacts of members without interruption and repeatedly urged your side to respond to the proposal.

However, instead of responding affirmatively to our just demand, in its 26 December telephone message, your side avoided designating the date of the contact of members, let alone the committee meeting; openly revealed its intention to resume the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise; and made it impossible for the joint committee to take a step forward. Thus, your side seriously disappointed all fellow countrymen who were greeting the New Year. We regret this.

As you are also aware, on 20 January last year the North and the South adopted the historic joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which was actively supported and warmly welcomed by the entire fellow countrymen and peaceloving people of the world, and openly announced this declaration to the world, thus accomplishing excellent work.

Today all fellow countrymen and the world's conscience hope the North and the South will sit at the negotiating table from a position of national independence on the significant first anniversary of the adoption of the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula so that the obstacles to the joint committee can be removed; the rules of nuclear inspection be discussed open-heartedly and successfully; and a new, landmark turning be effected on the road to peace and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

In the new year, our side proposes holding the 14th meeting of the joint committee on 20 January, the significant first anniversary of the adoption of the joint declaration on denulcearization, and the ninth contact of members on 15 January in order to give all fellow countrymen and people throughout the world, who cherish justice and peace, new hope for and conviction of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

I hope for your affirmative response.

U.S. Urged To Aid Reunification by Canceling Team Spirit

SK1001084093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 10 Jan 93

["Countries Concerned Must Actively Cooperate for Korea's Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address, while putting forward the idea and policy of solving the question of national reunification on the principle of national independence, emphasized that the countries concerned with the Korean issue must cooperate in every way for the cause of Korea's reunification.

The reunification of Korea is an international problem for which the countries concerned must take responsibility and cooperate in every way, either in view of the historical background of the problem or in view of the factor keeping Korea divided up to date, stresses NODONG SINMUN today.

The paper says in a signed article:

As is well known, the division of Korea is not a result of the Korean nation's will or of the nation's own contradictions; it is an outcome of the Cold War era which was imposed on the Korean nation by outside forces.

The countries concerned, therefore, must take their responsibility and duty and actively cooperate for putting an end to the division of Korea and achieving its reunification.

In order to discharge their responsibility and duty to meet the demand of the changed situation, the countries concerned must discard the outdated mode of thinking of the Cold War era and do things helpful toward Korea's reunification.

The reunification of Korea is an important matter to liquidate the leftovers of the Cold War. It is an anachronistic mode of thinking, therefore, to approach this problem from the old viewpoint of the Cold War era and from the position of strength.

For the United States, though being a superpower, to try to abuse the Korean issue for its own interests, forcing its unreasonable demands on others is an expression of arrogance and an infringement on sovereignty.

The United States is directly responsible for the Korean issue. Korea was divided after the U.S. military occupation of South Korea; as the United States turned South Korea into a nuclear military base, the danger of nuclear war has grown on the Korean peninsula and grave obstacles have been laid in the way of national reunification.

The United States must not interfere in or impede Korea's reunification. It must, at present, cancel the measure of resuming the provocative "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers and create a favorable climate for peaceful reunification.

When the countries concerned including the United States and Japan take the position of solving the Korean issue fairly to meet the demand of the present time, the principle of international justice and the will of the Korean nation, they will be able to discharge their responsibility and duty for the Korean issue.

NODONG SINMUN Says U.S. Help for Reunification 'Welcomed'

SK1201051893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 12 Jan 93

["The U.S. Must Stop Obstructing Korean Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The United States must refrain from acts obstructive to Korean reunification, urges NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying in his new year address:

"In order to solve the Korean question, the outcome of cold war, the countries concerned must renounce without hesitation their outdated policy of the cold war percod."

The article notes:

In the settlement of the Korean reunification question it is important for the United States to fulfil its shares of responsibility and obligation. It is because the United States is directly responsible for the division of Korea and the delay of the settlement of the Korean reunification question is closely linked with its Korean policy.

The United States, true to the demand of the time and the principle of international justice and equality, must renounce the outdated Korean policy of the cold war period, end its military occupation of South Korea and immediately stop its unreasonable military threat and economic pressure on the DPRK.

The United States must do things helpful to the reunification of Korea.

It is the consistent stand of the DPRK to resolve the national reunification question peacefully through North-South dialogue and negotiation. The United States must stop putting a spoke in the wheel of North-South dialogue, while interfering in the internal affairs of Korea, respect the spirit of North-South agreement and let the Korean nation solve the question of national reunification with its own efforts. For the present, it must discontinue the "nuclear" row against the DPRK and withdraw the decision to resume the provocative "Team Spirit" joint military exercises which resulted in suspending North-South dialogue.

If the United States rectifies its Korean policy and helps in Korean reunification in keeping with the trend of the time, it would be welcomed by the Korean people and the world people and a new phase would be opened in the reunification of Korea and in the improvement of Korea-U.S. relations. This would be in accord with the interests of the U.S. people, too.

MINJU CHOSON: U.S. 'Not Entitled To Talk About Human Rights'

SK1201052693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 12 Jan 93

["MINJU CHOSON on Living-Body Tests by U.S. Imperialists"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—A report of the medical institute of the U.S. Academy of Sciences disclosed a few days ago that the United States conducted living-body tests on more than 60,000 people including soldiers during World War II in order to develop "protective fatigues" to cope with a chemical warfare.

This shows the U.S. imperialists are ferocious beasts and fanatic murderers, MINJU CHOSON today declares.

The news analyst says:

During and after World War II the U.S. imperialists used nuclear and chemical weapons, brutally killing peaceable people, crippling numerous people and laying many regions waste.

Only the U.S. reactionary rulers who value common soldiers and people less than house flies could conduct tests for chemical and other weapons of mass destruction on their own soldiers.

The U.S. ruling quarters let no chance pass by without crying for "protection of Americans" and "human rights" while applying tests of mass-destruction weapons to their soldiers and driving them out in overseas aggression as cannon fodder. This is the height of sarcasm.

The U.S. imperialists are not entitled to talk about human rights.

On orders of these reactionary rulers, the U.S. imperialist aggression forces dropped chemical and bacteriological bombs on the heads of Korean people during the

Korean war and brutally killed peaceable people with these monstrous death tools in the Vietnam war.

The U.S. imperialists' human butchery must be checked.

Statement Urges Japan To Retract 'Slander'

SK1201050293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo January 10 (KNS-KCNA)—Chairman Akira Iwai and Secretary General Hiroshi Wakabayashi of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea in a statement on January 7 urged that the Japanese Government should immediately retract the utterances of an high-ranking official against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

They recalled that, as regards the secrecy kept by the Japanese Government authorities about the sea route of the Akatsuki-Maru, its plutonium transport ship, until its arrival in Japan, a high-ranking official of the government expressed "apprehensions over possible interception of nuclear materials", calling the DPRK by name. They branded it as a slander against the DPRK which has accepted inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency and is making all efforts for denuclearisation.

They stressed they, being desirous of Japan-DPRK friendship, could hardly repress resentment at his utterances and, being Japanese, could not but be concerned seriously over the fact that this indicated utter disregard of domestic and foreign public opinion about plutonium itself.

NODONG SINMUN: Socialism Guarantees Rights

SK1201005393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0019 GMT 11 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 11 January special article: "Socialism of Our Own Style Guarantees the Genuine Political Rights of the People"]

[Text] In his New Year address this year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song comprehensively expounded the superiority of anthropocentric socialism of our own style.

The major superiority of our socialism is demonstrated by the fact that our socialism thoroughly ensures the people's political rights legally and socially.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our society is a politically most stable society where the people's political rights are thoroughly ensured legally and socially and where there is no social evil to violate and infringe on mankind's dignity.

Only when the popular masses enjoy genuine political rights as masters of politics, can they freely enjoy an independent and creative life. Social and political independence is the life for men. Thus, the one without political rights is the same as the deceased.

Political rights can never exist for the working masses in capitalist society where all politics are implemented only in accordance with intent and interests of the exploiting class.

Equality of all people and freedom of individuals, loudly talked about by the imperialists, are merely a lie which can never be realized in actuality.

In the capitalist society, all rights and production means of the state belong to a small number of capitalists and money decides everything. In this society, no one can think of equality between billionaire and poor working masses nor can there be genuine freedom for the oppressed and exploited working people.

Anthropocentric socialism of our own style which embodied the chuche idea is a truly democratic society which guarantees genuine political freedom and rights for the people.

Socialist democracy [sahoejuuijok minjujuui] implemented in our society enables all working people to enjoy equal rights and freedom as equal members of society and to freely enjoy an independent and creative life while helping and leading each other.

Superiority of collectivism over individualism and absolute superiority of everlasting social and political life of a social group over the physical life of an individual—herein lies the essential superiority of socialist democracy of our own style over bourgeois democracy. This superiority is the basic factor which ensures genuine political rights for the people legally and socially.

In our country, above all, all workers are actively participating in exercising sovereignty and managing the state. The independence of working popular masses is to be ensured by sovereignty of the state. For the working masses to become the masters of their own destinies, they should first become the masters of political power.

Only when the popular masses become genuine masters of the state and society by seizing political power in their own hands, can they enjoy political freedom and rights and can they resolve all problems raised in the revolution and construction in compliance with their own aspirations and demand.

In our country, sovereign power is in the hands of working popular masses including workers, peasants and intellectuals, and through government organizations at various levels, they are exercising their rights.

When our people reach the age of election, we will equally have the right to elect and the right to be elected, irrespective of sex, occupation, the degree of property and knowledge, political views and religion.

In our country, the state formulates policies in compliance with the will and intent of a broad range of working people including workers, peasants and intellectuals, and is implementing such policies in the interest of popular masses.

From the outset, socialist society is a society where the popular masses are the masters of the state and society. Therefore, management of the state and society should be carried out in accordance with a new method of socialism in which the popular masses themselves are the masters.

Even if the popular masses have become the masters of sovereignty of the state and production means, they cannot exercise the rights worthy of masters nor can they enjoy genuine democracy if they fail to become the masters of management.

Since the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created the Chongsanri spirit and Chongsanri method, as well as the Taean work system which embodied this spirit and method, the social management system and method, which correspond to the essential demand of socialist society, have been thoroughly established in our country.

The Taean work system enables the popular masses to fulfill the responsibility and role as masters of the state and society by combining the party's monolithic leadership with the revolutionary mass line.

The Taean work system is not only the system of guiding and managing the socialist economy but also is a political method for management and operation of overall socialist society. Through the Taean work system, our people are carrying out the state management in accordance with their aspirations and demands.

In our country, the revolutionary mass line, which enables the popular masses to hold the position of masters of the state and society and to fulfill the responsibility and role as masters, is the supreme principle for activities of our party and state.

All activities of our popular government proceed from the revolutionary mass line, and the work system and work method of the popular government thoroughly depend on the popular masses and serve them.

In particular, the slogan, "We serve the people!" put forward by dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, enables our functionaries to thoroughly defend the interest of the people with correct outlook on the popular masses and to struggle by dedicating everything for the people.

As the result of this, socialist democracy is satisfactorily ensured in our country and the people offer all of their wisdom and strength by actively participating in the state management as the genuine masters of the state and society.

In our country, all conditions are guaranteed so that all workers freely participate in social and political activities. Social and political activities are a domain of social life [sahoe saenghwal] for the people to enjoy a valuable life [poraminnun salm] with a social and political life [sahoe chongchijok saengmyong].

Therefore, it is an important factor in democracy to satisfactorily ensure the right for social and political activities for the people. To make the popular masses genuine masters of politics, we should make them the masters of political power and at the same time, we should encourage them to participate in political life of political party and public organizations worthy of masters.

In socialist society, the significance and role of political life in the party and public organizations are to be further enhanced because socialist society is a society where the leader, the party and the masses constitute one social and political organism.

Only when the people are engaged in the political and organizational life by participating in organizations of the working-class party and in political organizations led by the party, can they glorify their political life amid blood ties with the leader [suryong] and brilliantly pioneer their destiny through organizations and groups.

Today in our country, all party members and workers participate in organizational life. Our people, regarding it as a valuable life to engage in political and organizational life, actively participate in this life because they believe that through political and organizational life, they can glorify their precious social and political life and can achieve their aspirations and will.

There are no higher nor lower people within our party organizations and within organs of workers organizations. All of them are exercising the equal rights. Democratic will of party members and workers, raised through party organizations and workers organizations, are to be reflected in policies of the party and the state and through their creativity and initiative, policies of the party and the state are to be thoroughly implemented.

Indeed, the political and organizational life of our people is a valuable and rewarding life enabling us to enjoy genuine political rights.

Today in our country, all the people firmly armed themselves with the chuche idea and are glorifying their precious social and political life in firm unity with the party and the leader. This cannot be thought of without revolutionary political and organizational life.

Through experience in practical life, our people came to firmly believe that only when they participate in the revolutionary political and organizational life, can they implement policies of the party and the state with attitude worthy of masters and enjoy a valuable life.

Our people's political rights are legally guaranteed by socialist law-abiding life. The socialist law-abiding life is a democratic law-abiding life which is basically different from bourgeois law- abiding life which rules the people in a repressive and high-handed manner. The people's political freedom and rights are ensured by socialist laws under a systematical social order.

Unlike in capitalist society where laws became the antipopular ruling means of the reactionary ruling class, our socialist laws were formulated by reflecting the will of the working popular masses, and are to be executed through lofty consciousness of the working masses.

Through the most popular socialist law-abiding life, our people are enjoying democratic rights, which are guaranteed thoroughly and legally, as masters of the state and society. The socialist society in our country, which practically guarantees the people's political rights and freedom, is indeed a most democratic society, and socialist democracy of our own style is a genuine democracy for the working popular masses.

Kim Il-song Receives Greetings From Cambodian Leader

SK1001041193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has received a message of greetings from Chea Sim, chairman of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party on New Year 1993.

The message reads:

Pyongyang, Your Excellency Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people and DPRK president:

Your Respected Excellency: Concerning New Year 1993, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, the government of the Cambodian state, and all the Cambodian people, I wholeheartedly wish you health and long life and more successes in the cause of leading the construction of a beautiful and wonderful country.

I am convinced that the fraternal Korean people will attain greater success, under Your Excellency's wise leadership, in the cause of struggle for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and the country's development and prosperity.

I highly value the great creations that have been built by the Workers Party of Korea, the Korean Government, and the Korean people. I highly value the efforts of the Korean party, government, and people to realize the country's reunification peacefully. I take this opportunity to express our support once again for the cause of Your Excellency and the Korean party, government, and people for the country's reunification.

I express once again my deep gratitude to Your Excellency and the fraternal Korean people for the warm hospitality accorded me and our delegation during our official visit to the DPRK.

I will try to strengthen and develop the friendship, unity, and cooperative relations between our two countries, and the peoples of our two countries that have been formed through our successful visit. I will support the Korean people's struggle to defend and build the country.

I express my highest respect.

[Signed] Chea Sim, chairman of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party

[Dated] 31 December 1992, Phnom Penh.

Pyongyang Radio Commends Kim Chong-il's Leadership

SK0901122793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0330 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Unattributed talk from the "Brilliant Guidance and Immortal Achievements" program: "He Adheres to the Party's Leadership as the Lifeline of the Socialist Cause"]

[Text] Today our people are vigorously accelerating revolution and construction in the belief that when they advance following the great party's leadership, they will achieve victory in the socialist cause without fail.

Whenever we behold the stout spirit of our people who advance vigorously, imbued with firm faith and optimism, we impressively recall the tireless efforts and achievements of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who has adhered to the party's leadership as the lifeline of the socialist cause and energetically lead the struggle to realize it.

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, the socialist cause for mankind's independence, faced severe challenges on the international stage because of the imperialists' vicious antisocialist maneuvers and the [word indistinct] betrayal by opportunists and reformists.

The opportunists and reformists rejected the party's leadership for administrative organizations. Insisting on forming dictatorial organizations, like army, social security, and nonpolitical organizations, they finally took a counterrevolutionary action of preventing the party from doing its activities in these organizations.

Also, they put the ideological and cultural life under the control of the working class party and generally introduced bourgeois ideas and culture to it.

Upon rejection of the leadership of the working class party, disorder and chaos resulted in these societies, and counterrevolutionary forces began to arbitrarily run wild.

The working class party in some countries that called for a party reshuffle, disappeared from the political stage, and party leadership for the socialist cause was belittled by those who tried to turn back to bourgeois ways.

Learning a significant lesson from this, many communists realized the actuality of the situation, and recognizing the need to strengthen their leadership role, built new revolutionary parties.

They were encouraged by the perfect spirit and look of our party which was advancing upholding the revolutionary banner, the socialist banner, without being flustered by any complicated situation. They became deeply drawn by our party's chuche idea and our experience of struggle.

After wisely assessing this trend, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il profoundly elucidated the fundamental questions in strengthening the party and enhancing its leadership role by intensifying and developing chuche-oriented party building theory in his classic work, *"The Workers Party of Korea Is the Organizer and Guide to All the Victories of Our People,"* which was published on 3 October 1990 on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] which he expounded upon in his talk to responsible functionaries of the party Central Committee on 10 October 1990.

The dear comrade leader has scientifically defined the revolutionary nature of the party's leadership and its role in implementing the socialist cause.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: The party's leadership is the lifeline of the socialist cause. The socialist cause has victoriously advanced under our party's leadership, and it can be brilliantly consummated only under the party's leadership in the future, too.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's idea of viewing the party's leadership as the lifeline of the socialist cause is a unique one that brings a fresh outlook on the role of the lifeline of the socialist cause in history.

Of course, importance of the party's leadership in revolution and construction were also stressed in the past. In the past, however, they could not place much importance on the party's leadership in implementing the socialist cause as they did in it's role as the lifeline of the socialist cause.

The idea "The party's leadership is a lifeline of the socialist cause" newly and creatively elucidated by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is one that the party's leadership is absolutely essential in leading the socialist cause to victory.

Defining the party's leadership as a lifeline of the socialist cause, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has taught us that the party's leadership is a decisive guarantee to strengthen the socialist cause's main force and to enhance its role; that it is a basic condition to advance the socialist cause based on the protracted struggling strategy and tactics; and that it is an indispensable demand to consistently and thoroughly adhere to and embody the revolutionary principle in the whole course of implementing the socialist cause.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said: We should further strengthen and develop our party into the chuche-type revolutionary party. For this end, we should thoroughly adhere to the party's revolutionary character and to further defend and consolidate our party's unity and cohesion based on unitarity of idea and leadership. He has taught us that we should more firmly fortify the ties of kinship between the party and popular masses by closely combining the party's leadership with the revolutionary mass line.

Thanks to his wise leadership, our party has been further developed into a guide of the revolution and construction and its leading role has been enhanced more greatly. As a result of the strengthening of the party and the enhancement of its leading role, our people can display the might of their single-hearted unity. They can also keep up a vigorous struggle, overflowing with optimism of the future and conviction in the victory of the socialist cause.

Even after this, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has brilliantly elucidated the road to construction of the socialist ruling party and to the victory of the socialist cause with his ideological and theoretical activity. On 10 October 1992, in particular, he published a programmatic document "On the Basic Questions of the Revolutionary Party Building." This becomes a significant event in excellently building the socialist ruling party and in effecting new upsurges in the socialist cause.

In his classic work, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has reaffirmed that the party's leadership is a lifeline of the socialist cause. By so doing, he has elucidated the ways to constantly strengthen the party and to further enhance its leading role in implementing the socialist cause.

In his work, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said: The collapse of socialism in some countries gives us a stern lesson. What is most important here is that it is essential for us to clearly know how the parties—which have guided the socialist cause by waging a harsh struggle for several decades—collapsed in some countries overnight. By saying so, he pointed out this is because the party's leadership is a lifeline of the socialist cause.

As pointed out by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in his work, the socialist ruling parties have collapsed in some countries in recent years. Socialism reverted to capitalism. This is a temporary phenomenon that deviates from the normal tracks in terms of the overall trends of mankind's history.

Judging from the environment and condition of the party building and party activity, the collapse of parties in a favorable environment such as socialism is abnormal.

In his work, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has clearly elucidated the reason why such an abnormal event has occurred. He said that this is related to the failure of the party building and party activity.

Proceeding from the idea that the party's leadership is a lifeline of the socialist cause, he explained that the reason for the frustration of socialism and the collapse of the party is due to the failure of party building and party activity. Therefore, his explanation becomes the most just guideline in properly finding the basic key to the settlement of the problem.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has scientifically elucidated the importance of the party's leadership. He has also wisely led a struggle to strengthen the party and to enhance its leading role. First of all, he has enabled us to improve and strengthen the work of party ideas in conformity with the demands of developing reality.

Constantly improving the work of party ideas is a basic demand to strengthen the party's ideological unity and cohesion and to enhance the party's leading role in the revolution and construction.

In his many documents, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has given a programmatic teaching on improving the work of party ideas in conformity with the demands of developing reality. He has also elucidated tasks to strengthen education in the principle of the chuche idea, the revolutionary traditional education, class education, and socialist and patriotic education. In particular, he has given a priority to deepening education of the chuche idea.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has clearly elucidated the direction and plans to consolidate education of the chuche idea so that people can contribute to having a correct view of the main force of the revolution and to strongly building the revolutionary outlook on the leader.

Under his energetic leadership, the party's ideological work and education of the chuche idea have been further consolidated. As a result, party members and the working people have cherished in their hearts the dignity and pride that our leader and party are the best and that our fatherland and nation are the best. Thereby, they became revolutionaries who are vigorously fighting on under the party's and the leader's leadership in any difficult situation, upholding the banner of the chuche idea.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has led party organizations at each level to enhancing their militant function and role in order to strengthen the party and enhance its leading role. The enhancement of the function and role of various party organizations is an important demand in enhancing the party's leading role.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has also enabled the party committees at each level to enhance their chuche-oriented leading function and their role as the supreme leading organizations of the relevant units. He has established the arranged work system so that party committees at each level can uniformly occupy relevant units' administrative and economic work and social organizations' work, and so that they can lead the works in a political manner.

Thereby, the party organizations at each level have been further developed into the militant ones that vividly conduct their activities. As a result, the party's leadership for the revolution and construction has been carried out more properly.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has vigorously pushed ahead with a struggle to turn the party work method into the party- oriented method and political method. Carrying out the party work in a political manner is a basic principle for party activity. This is also a basic demand to enhance the party's leading role.

For this end, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has led us to thoroughly embody the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method. The dear leader comrade—who has early presented slogan "Let the entire party go among the popular masses" and led functionaries to go among them to carry out the work, while sharing their life with masses—gave a few years ago a programmatic teaching on strengthening the party and on further enhancing its leading role. By so doing, he has taken a revolutionary step to make a part of their daily life to carry out the revolutionary tasks among the masses.

In January 1990, he presented a slogan "To serve the people" and led party functionaries to mingle with the people, to share life and death with them, and to devotedly work for the sake of the people as faithful servants of the people.

In addition, he let various party organizations intensify the ideological struggle to get rid of old work methods and old work styles. In particular, he raised an intense blow to eradicate bureaucratism, formalism, expedientialism, and [word indistinct].

On the other hand, he had responsible functionaries learn the great leader-style work method and always take junior functionaries and teach them the correct work method.

As a result, all sorts of old work methods and styles, including [word indistinct], bureaucratism, and the administration-centered method have been eradicated, and functionaries became able to embody better the great leader-style work method and the chuche-oriented party's work method.

Today, our people under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il have the firm faith that without the party's leadership, they can neither have happiness and future, nor successfully consummate the socialist cause.

Our people are firmly making a fervent resolution to uphold even more highly the leadership of the party and the leader, impressively recalling the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who early led in strengthening the party's leadership.

NODONG SINMUN Urges Embodiment of Chuche Ideal

SK0901142993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0013 GMT 9 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 9 January editorial: "Let Us More Profoundly Embody the Superiority of the Socialism of Our Own Style"]

[Text] In his New Year address for this year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented the honorable task of crushing all challenges and obstruction maneuvers by the imperialists and reactionaries and defending our socialism and further glorifying it. To vigorously accelerate the all-out march to glorify the socialism of our own style in hearty response to the call of the party and the leader, all the party members and workers must more profoundly embody the superiority of the socialism of our country.

In his New Year address for this year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: The socialism of our country is a popular masses-centered socialism that embodies the chuche idea.

The reality has proven that the socialism of our own style, which the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song built and which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has been glorifying, is the most excellent and invincible.

As the great leader stated in his New Year address, all the people in our country are genuine masters of the state and society and equally enjoying the most valuable and happiest lives in political, economic, and cultural fields and all the other fields. And, no unemployed, wanderer, or beggar can be found in our country. And, the people's political rights are thoroughly guaranteed on legal and social terms, and no social evil exists that infringes on human dignity. And, all people, free from worries, help and lead each other and share joy and sorrow. Therefore, our society is an ideal society that people have earnestly hoped for for centuries.

We must strongly arm ourselves with the idea that the socialism of our own style is superior, and embody the idea as our firm belief. Then, we can become dedicated fighters for the socialist cause and devote ourselves to the cause of strengthening the might of chuche Korea.

For all the people to profoundly embody the superiority of the socialism of our own style today is a precondition for successfully carrying out grand socialist construction assigned to us. Our party is calling the entire party and all the people to the all-out march to glorify socialism and more vigorously display its superiority.

A key to scoring revolutionary upsurges in political, economic, and cultural fields and all the other fields of revolution and construction in hearty response to the party's call is for all the party members and workers to firmly believe that our party is great and that the socialism of our own style is superior and unanimously rise up in revolution and construction.

In a socialist society, ideology is most important and determines everything. People who wage struggles with the belief that their cause is just and that what they do is absolutely correct have no insurmountable obstacle or unconquerable fortress.

When all the party members and workers cherish the superiority and invincibility of the socialism of our own style deep in their hearts and resolutely wage struggles, the entire society will be filled with a firm belief and will and heroic struggle spirits. And, new upsurges will be scored in all fronts of socialist construction. What is more important than anything else in all the party members and workers' cherishing the superiority of the socialism of our own style deep in their hearts is that they have the stand and view that the socialism of our own style is their life.

Today, the socialism of our own style is deeply rooted in all the people's hearts and lives. The socialism of our own style is reflected in political, economic, ideological, and cultural lives and all the other lives of our people. And, all the party members and workers must think that they cannot live even for moment without socialism. All the party members and workers must maintain this unshakable belief, which they have come to have through their long practical experiences, under any circumstances; eternally identify socialism with their destiny; and find happiness only in socialist lives.

We must know well that either socialism or victory is eternally ours and that when we abandon socialism, only destruction will come to their lives and destiny. They also must consider socialism to be more valuable than their lives.

To profoundly embody the socialism of our own style, all the party members and workers must more strongly arm themselves with our party's revolutionary idea, the chuche idea. The popular masses-centered socialism of our own style is based on the chuche idea and a chuche-oriented socialism that embodies the chuche idea.

The chuche idea is the essence of the socialism of our own style. Apart from the chuche idea, one cannot say anything about the dignity and prestige of the socialism of our own style, which casts its rays throughout the world. And, all the victories and achieves in the struggle to build socialism are unthinkable apart from the chuche idea.

All the party members and workers must profoundly realize and firmly believe that the chuche idea, which the respected and beloved leader created and which our party has been developing and enriching, is the ideological basis of socialism and the most just guiding idea on our era's revolution and construction.

We must well know how painful difficulties and twists and turns socialism will face and how serious pains people will suffer when they have no correct guiding idea and scientific philosophy, and must always live and struggle as required by the chuche idea.

To profoundly embody the superiority of the socialism of our own style and resolutely wage struggles, all the party members and workers must well know how valuable their dignity and happy lives are. Our people's independent and creative lives are unthinkable in a society where people are exploited.

From the miserable reality of capitalist societies that ruin working people mentally and morally and drive them to difficulties in their livelihood and that of some countries where capitalism is being revived, we must acutely realize that the popular masses can enjoy genuine lives. We must clearly know how much benefits and warm favors our party and state give to our people and families under difficult circumstances in which we must carry out grand economic construction projects even while strongly defending the socialist fortress. We must also treasure our happy lives today in which we are living free from worries over food, clothes, housing, and even the education of our children.

All the party organizations must carry out indoctrination work to make people realize how superior the socialism of our own style is. They must carry out this work in various forms by using examples. In particular, they must strengthen indoctrination work by comparing the socialism of our own style with capitalist societies and the South Korean society. In this way, they must make all the party members and workers always remember that no other society in the world is superior to ours and that no other people are prouder and happier than our people. They must also make all the party members and workers devotedly fight for the benevolent party and socialist fatherland.

All the party organizations of all levels must vigorously carry out ideological indoctrination work to strongly arm the party members and workers with the idea and theory on the superiority of the socialist system, which the great leader elucidated in his New Year address for this year. In this way, they must make the party members and workers participate like one in the struggle to defend the socialism of our own style and glorify it with great pride.

NODONG SINMUN Urges Strengthening of 'Ideological Fortress'

SK1101051593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT 11 Jan 93

["Strengthening Ideological Revolution is Sure Guarantee of Bringing Honour to Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address put forth a highly important task of pressing on with the ideological revolution, saying socialism is invincible when the ideological fortress is built up firmly.

NODONG SINMUN Sunday comes out with an article entitled "Strengthening Ideological Revolution is Sure Guarantee of Bringing Honour to Socialism."

It quotes President Kim Il-song as saying:

"We must vigorously promote the ideological revolution so as to equip all party members and working people firmly with the chuche idea and must further strengthen the singlehearted unity between the party and the people."

The ideological revolution is an undertaking for human remoulding aimed at making the working people revolutionary and assimilating them to the working class and making them true chuche-type revolutionaries who accept the chuche idea as their steadfast world outlook and loyalty to the party and the leader as their life and soul, the article says, and goes on:

After the establishment of socialist system economic construction is raised as an important task for the working-class party. But economic construction cannot be done well if we neglect to educate the people in a revolutionary manner, laying stress only on the economic construction, and then the socialist gains may be lost finally. This is a historical lesson proven by the revolutionary practice of our times.

The ideological revolution is a key to firmly equipping the people with the chuche idea and strengthening the driving force of our revolution in every way and an important way to bring the revolutionary enthusiasm and creative initiative of the people into full play and thus press ahead with socialist construction.

To strengthen the ideological revolution is a sure guarantee of the party members and working people decisivels smashing the imperialists' anti-socialist moves and defending our socialism, deeply cherishing their conviction of chuche.

The countries which had been building socialism ditched the revolutionary principle of socialism and opted to revive capitalism because the people failed to cherish the thoroughgoing revolutionary conviction of the justice of their cause and of the inevitability of its victory.

Our people are now firmly adhering to the revolutionary principle of socialism without the slightest illusion about capitalism under the imperialists' crafty ideological and cultural offensive as they have the unshakable conviction of chuche that their party is the best, their leader is the best and the road they took is the most just one.

The faith of chuche which has struck deep roots in the minds of our people is entirely a precious fruition of the wise guidance of our party which has energetically conducted education in the chuche idea among the party members and working people, consistently regarding it as the basic task of the ideological revolution to rear the people as chuche-type revolutionaries.

NODONG SINMUN Stresses Adherence to Party Principles

SK1101091393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0008 GMT 11 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 11 January editorial: "Let Us Thoroughly Embody Our Party's Revolutionary Principles and Lines"]

[Text] We are faced with the heavy and honorable task to uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address for this year and resolutely advocate, adhere to, and further brighten socialism of our own style. The most important problem in implementing this task successfully is for all party members and workers to adhere firmly to our party's revolutionary principles and lines and vigorously accelerate socialist building.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We should continue to adhere firmly to the principle of chuche in ideology, independence in politics, self-dependence in economy, and self-reliance in defense, which clearly proved its justness and vitality during the trials throughout history. We should also firmly adhere to the general line of socialist building and carry out more vigorously the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

Our party's revolutionary principles and lines are mighty weapons used to resolutely advocate, adhere to, and endlessly elucidate socialism of our own style. As the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught, adhering to our party's revolutionary principles and lines signifies that we should firmly adhere to the principle of chuche in ideology, independence in politics, self-dependence in economy, and self-reliance in defense. It also signifies that we should firmly adhere to the general line of socialist building and actively carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—so that revolution and construction can be vigorously accelerated toward the one road of chuche.

Our socialist cause is pioneered, advanced, and becomes victorious in accordance with the justness and might of our party's revolutionary principles and lines. Our party is endlessly consolidating and developing socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses, which is in conformity with the independent demand and interest of the popular masses. It is also actively promoting revolution and construction in accordance with the true character of the socialist cause.

In the whole course of socialist building, our party consistently adhered to independent and creative positions. In addition, our party has been thoroughly implementing the revolutionary line of independence, self-dependence, and self-reliance and the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

Imperialists and reactionaries are persistently maneuvering to isolate and suffocate our republic—the fortress of socialism—and obliterate our socialist cause. However, they cannot prevent our people's vigorous march, which is advancing along the road as taught by our party's revolutionary principles and lines. Our people are not the kind to throw away their revolutionary faith and principle by yielding to pressure and threats. Moreover, in whatever wind, they are not the kind of people to move toward another road by throwing away the road toward which they were moving. Our people's faith and will to consistently adhere to and embody the party's revolutionary principles and lines are firm.

Today we are faced with the honorable duty of highly upholding the militant task put forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address; smashing all kinds of challenges and obstructions by the imperialists and reactionaries; and advocating, adhering to, and all the more elucidating socialism of our own style. If the whole party and all of the people are to carry out this important task successfully, as was the case in the past, our party's revolutionary principles and lines should be consistently adhered to and thoroughly embodied.

Our party's revolutionary principles and lines in socialist building are firm and constant. The problem depends on how our functionaries, party members, and workers will adhere to and embody it. Functionaries and workers should most of all deeply experience theoretically and practically that our party's revolutionary principles and lines are the most correct guideline in making it possible to complete the socialist cause of our own style to the end.

The justness and vitality of our party's revolutionary principles and lines were wholly manifested in the rigorous trials of history. Without the slightest failure and twists and turns, our people most successfully pioneered the unique road of socialism that other people had not experienced. They smashed all kinds of challenges and obstructive maneuvers by the imperialists and magnificently established on this land a prosperous superior socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses.

Even amid the vortex of rigorous history, socialism of our own style is endlessly pressing hard on the enemy's heels. Also, our people smashed all kinds of challenges by the enemies and brilliantly decorated last year as a victorious year of faith and victorious year of will. This is because our party is firmly adhering to the revolutionary principles and lines and is leading revolution and construction.

We must clearly bear in mind that if we back off from our revolutionary principles and lines even a little or make the slightest concessions, we will not be able to defend the socialism of our own style, which we have achieved by shedding blood, or glorify it. Party organizations must make the party members and workers profoundly understand that our party's revolutionary principles and lines fundamentally guarantee the victorious advance of the cause of the socialism of our own style. They must also let the party members and workers know well the tragic fate and reality of people in some countries where the parties and socialism have collapsed because those people failed to maintain the revolutionary principles. In this way, they must let the party members and workers understand profoundly the justness and truthfulness of our party's revolutionary principles and lines.

To thoroughly implement our party's revolutionary principles and lines, all the party members and workers must have a stronger belief in chuche. Only when they have a strong belief in chuche can they consistently adhere to their party's revolutionary principles and lines and persistently advance the socialist cause without being shaken no matter what wind may blow and from where and no matter what anyone may say.

What our party members and workers must cherish deep in their hearts as a firm belief is the notion that our revolution has victoriously cultivated its road according to our party's revolutionary principles and lines and that they firmly believe that only when they consistently adhere to these principles and lines can they win victory. All party members and workers, strongly united around the great leader and the great party, must have a strong will to persistently adhere to our revolutionary principles and lines and complete the chuche-oriented socialist cause to the end.

We must have the unshakable belief that our party is the best, that our party's principles and lines are the best, and that as long as there are those principles and lines, victory is ours.

All functionaries and workers must uphold the slogan "Let us live our style," rationally ponder all the problems and solve them with their own strength, and think and act as required by our party's principles and lines without being shaken no matter what wind may blow and from where. They must firmly believe their own strength and highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle. The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle is our people's traditional struggle spirit and an important way to resolutely defend the party's revolutionary principles and lines and consistently implement them. We must highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle in socialist construction and thus make our party's principles and lines demonstrate their great might and vitality.

Party organizations' militant roles and their leadership roles in all the fields of revolution and construction must be further enhanced to thoroughly implement our party's revolutionary principles and lines. The party's leadership is a prerequisite for consistently adhering to and implementing the revolutionary principles and lines in the entire course of carrying out the socialist cause. In compliance with the realistic demand of socialist construction, we must strengthen party organizations of various levels and endlessly enhance their militant functions and their leadership roles. Also, people's government organizations must highly display the spirit of serving the people and deliver socialist demands in all the fields of social lives. We must heighten our vigilance against the antirepublic maneuvers by the imperialists and reactionaries and thoroughly crush them.

To thoroughly implement our party's revolutionary principles and lines, party organizations must substantially carry out ideological indoctrination work. Toward this end, they must conduct entirely new revolutionary ideological work to make the party members and workers more profoundly realize the greatness of our party, which is leading our era's socialist cause under the banner of chuche, and the wisdom of its leadership and to positively mobilize them in the struggle to implement our party's revolutionary principles and lines.

The party organizations must deepen the study of the great leader's New Year's address for this year and all of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's recent works, thus arming the party members and workers with the essence of our party's revolutionary principles and lines.

Former Premier Yi Kun-mo Speaks at Rally

SK0901041393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Mass rallies of North Hamgyong Province and North Hwanghae Province were held on 7 January to highly uphold the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address. Rallies were held to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory of the great Fatherland Liberation War with high political enthusiasm and brilliant work achievements.

Portraits of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were placed at the front of the meeting places. Various slogans reading, "Hurrah for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Hurrah for the glorious Workers Party of Korea!" and placards calling forth the party members and workers to increase their work output, were also placed at the meeting places.

The mass rallies started with the singing of the songs General Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

At the North Hamgyong Province mass rally Yi Kun-mo, responsible secretary of North Hamgyong Provincial party and chairman of the People's Committee of North Hamgyong Province, first made a report.

[Begin Yi Kun-mo recording] Comrades, all the people of the whole nation today are firmly uniting around the party and the leader amid the vigorous environment of actively holding the general onward movement of the nineties from the start of the New Year. We are holding the North Hamgyong Province mass rally to highly uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address and greet the 40th anniversary of the victory of the great Fatherland Liberation War with high political enthusiasm and brilliant work achievements.

In his New Year address, the great leader summed up last year's brilliant victories and results having advocated and adhered to socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses. He summed up the victories and results in the [words indistinct] struggle by vigorously accelerating socialist building by highly upholding the banner of the (?chuche idea) by the party and people. He also put forth a militant task to once again bring new revolutionary (?upsurges) in all fields of socialist building in this significant year—the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Fatherland Liberation War.

The great leader's New Year address is a militant banner which makes it possible to completely smash the maneuver of the imperialists through the might of single-hearted unity and complete the chuche socialist cause. It also makes it possible to hasten national reunification which is our people's historical long- cherished desire. It makes it possible to vigorously promote anti- imperialism to achieve independence. This is a great revolutionary program which we are (?enjoying). [applause]

In his New Year address, the great leader said that in 1992, our party and people firmly united in mind and will, thus overcoming difficulties and trials. He also taught that 1992 was a year of proud victory and glory that vigorously manifested the justness and invincibility of socialism.

The situation surrounding our country last year was really complicated and tense. Nevertheless, despite the various sorts of vicious challenges they faced from imperialists and reactionaries, our people more firmly rallied around the party and the leader. They strongly displayed the honor and dignity of our Republic, the fortress of socialism, and attained a brilliant victory in socialist construction. [applause]

The greatest successes of our people in carrying out the socialist cause last year were that our people were more revolutionarily tempered through the difficult and rewarding struggle, and that the unity and cohesion of the party and the popular masses were further solidified. All the people, including the working class, farmers, intellectuals, and the soldiers of the People's Army, were more than ever firmly united with a sense of mission as they faced the times and the revolution. They thoroughly displayed the heroic spirit of (?our people engaged in the revolution) and the (?justness) of the chuche idea.

Our people continued to further solidify the foundation of a self-reliant national economy so that they might [word indistinct] under any difficult conditions. This enabled our people to have exceptionally great strength politically, ideologically, materially, technologically, and enabled them to foresee a greater victory and a greater future. We came to be convinced more firmly that when we rely on political and economic might, which our people firmly solidified for themselves under the wise leadership of the great leader and the dear comrade leader, we can resolutely crush the antisocialist maneuvers of any enemy. We can also complete the cause of the socialism of our own style.

All of our victories and successes during the struggle to add luster to the socialism of our own style are the noble results achieved under the great leadership of the respected and beloved leader and the dear comrade leader. They lead our revolution along the ever-victorious road under the banner of the great chuche idea. [applause] [end recording]

Continuing his report, he called attention to the fact that this year is a significant year of marking the 40th anniversary of the Fatherland Liberation War victory. He said that all the party members and working people in the province should add luster to this year to make it a rewarding victorious year by thoroughly implementing the militant tasks the respected and beloved leader put forth in his New Year's address. [passage omitted on other activities at the rally]

South Korea

Government Reportedly To Reject North's Proposal for JNCC Meeting

SK1201073393 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 12 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] It has been learned that the ROK Government has decided to reject the North side's proposal that Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] meetings and contacts of members be held simultaneously.

In connection with the fact that Choe U-chin, the North side's chairman of the JNCC, proposed on 11 January that a JNCC members' contact be held 15 January and that the 14th JNCC meeting be held on 20 January, the ROK Government held a meeting on 12 January and reaffirmed its previous position that substantial discussions on rules of nuclear inspection must precede a JNCC meeting.

The government is planning to send a telephone message containing this position to the North Korean side sooner or later. Therefore, it would be difficult to hold a JNCC meeting unless the two sides change each's position.

DPRK Military Reportedly 'Unhappy' With Hereditary Power Transfer

SK1201071093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-il, son and heir-apparent of North Korean President Kim Il-song, doesn't have full control of the military yet, though he is supreme commander, a Japanese daily said Tuesday.

The SANKEI SHIMBUN quoted a South Korean source as saying that the junior Kim's taking control of the military was essential if he was to inherit his father's position as head of the nation.

Officers were gathered together to demonstrate their loyalty to Kim after he was promoted to marshal, but the SANKEI said the military is unhappy with the hereditary power transfer and is grumbling in private about how someone with only one month of military training at a university and who has never fired a gun can be the supreme commander.

Kim was trying to bring the armed forces under his complete control by giving gifts to soldiers and promoting officers, the SANKEI further quoted the source as saying.

North Korea is collecting the opinions of the soldiers on how to make Kim their single leader, the SANKEI said quoting members of Chochongnyon, a pro-Pyongyang Koreans' group in Japan, who recently visited North Korea.

Daily Examines 1946 Kim Il-song Assassination Attempt

SK1201030693 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 10 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] It was revealed for the first time that "the Kim Il-song assassination attempt at Pyongyang railway station," an attempt by hand grenade at Kim Il-song's life at a 1946 ceremony marking the anniversary of the 1 March Independence Movement, was carried out by the Korean Justice-loving Heroes group [taehan uiyoldan], not by "the Central Political Operatives group" [chungang chongchi kongjaktae] led by Kim Ku. Also, it was revealed that Kim Tu-pong, who was then vice chairman of the North Korean Provisional People's Committee and leader of the Yonan faction, and Kim Won-pong, who founded the Korean Volunteers Unit [chosonin uiyongdae] in China, were members of the Korean Justice-loving Heroes group.

Accordingly, it was learned that the two Kims, who were also then high-ranking leaders of North Korea, were members of the anti-Kim Il-song faction until March 1946. This was confirmed in the "interrogation report on the assassination attempter Kim Chong-ui" of the counter intelligence corps unit of the Soviet Army stationed in North Korea which HANGUK ILBO obtained recently in Russia.

This fact reverses the "allegation" that the assassination attempt was carried out by the South side [South Korea] in an attempt by Kim Chong-ui together with members of the "paekuisa" (an assassination organization) under the secret directive of the central political operatives group which was organized following the return of Kim Ku and Sin Ik-hui, members of the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai. This proves that the assassination attempt on Kim Il-song was a joint attempt by broad anti-Kim Il-song forces.

This interrogation report of 21 (?chapters), was sent in August 1946 to (Mikhail Susolrov), secretary of the then [Soviet] Communist Party Central Committee, by (Sapotsnikov), deputy chief of the then Seventh Bureau [intelligence] of the Political Headquarters of the Soviet Army, after receiving confirmation from (Kaidalu), who was the officer in charge of the interrogation of Kim Chong-ui.

Kim Chong-ui stated during the interrogation that although it was true that he worked at the Central Political Operatives group led by Kim Ku as deputy director for intelligence affairs, the assassination attempt on Kim Il-song was carried out according to the directive from the Korean Justice-loving Heroes group.

He also stated that Kim Tu-pong, the leader of the Yonan faction, who became vice chairman of the [North Korean] Provisional People's Committee after defecting to the North, and Kim Won-pong, who was the leader of the then National Revolutionary Party, belonged to the Korean Justice-loving Heroes group, and carried out political activities such as joining the ruling circles of both the North and South to establish a single North-South government.

Reportage on Transition Activities of Kim Yong-sam

Meets Japanese Diet Speaker

SK1201031493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam met Tuesday with Yoshio Sakurauchi, speaker of the Japanese Diet and senior adviser of the Japan-Korea Cooperation Committee, and Ken Harata, acting president of the Japan-Korea Parliamentary Union.

"In regards with several unsettled issues between Korea and Japan, I expect that a satisfactory solution is to be sought wisely in terms of building up future-oriented relations between the two countries. I hope Japan is to endeavor actively to solve the issues with a view looking to the 21 century," Kim told Sakurauchi and Harata.

"The negotiation for diplomatic normalization between Japan and North Korea should be handled in a way that promotes positive changes in North Korea and makes peaceful surroundings in the Korean peninsula.

"In the future, Korea and Japan are to build up more close relations in civilian level as well as governmental level.

"In my term, I believe that future-oriented relations are to be built between Korea and Japan," he said. "I hope that in creating a new Korea, friendly countries including Japan will cooperate and support me."

Plans Unification Fund

SK1101132693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1249 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—The new administration to be born next month plans to raise a large unification fund and work out a unified constitution to prepare for unification between South and North Korea, it was learned Monday.

A close aide to President-elect Kim Yong-sam said the transition committee is working on the possible creation of a new "unification tax" to raise a fund to finance unification. The fund to be raised through the new tax would be in the amount of hundreds of billion won a year and will continue to be collected until it reaches 10,000 billion won, he said. The official said unification ought to come with the two Koreas going through the stage of exchanges and cooperation and then the phase of national integration.

"But, unification may come all of a sudden at an unpredictable time. Therefore, President-elect Kim's idea is that we should be fully prepared for such an eventuality by, for instance, raising uinification fund," he said.

The official explained the proposed unification fund will be used in easing a social shock stemming from the wide gap between the two economies, in reconstructing the backwardish North Korean industry and relieving the plight of the North Korean people.

On a unified constitution, the official said a draft basic law will feature the liberal democratic system, the free economic concept and a bicameral system. The draft will be for reference to a South-North assembly to be formed following unification, he said.

Considers Political Role for Unions

SK1001031493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong- sam's camp is carefully studying a policy to allow labor unions to take part in politics so long as they do not basically reject the capitalist system.

"Union leaders aired a set of suggestions during their recent meeting with the president-elect, which included recognition of unions' political activities, and our party intends to review their recommendations in a forward-looking manner," said Hwang In-song, policy committee chairman of the majority Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], Sunday.

The labor law at present prohibits unions from engaging in all sorts of political activities.

Hwang said that unions' political activities may in a sense be desirable since he said stable development of management-union relations would contribute to industrial peace and further to invigoration of the national economy.

"We will carefully study the possibility of unions being allowed to participate in politics when we work on an amendment to the labor law as promised by President-elect Kim Yong-sam as one of his campaign pledges," Hwang said.

A DLP source said his party plans to set up a labor law research committee among people from unions, management and academy to review the issue of unions' political activities and other problems facing labor.

The source added that management as a whole is opposed to unions' political activities on the grounds that it may work against productivity increase.

Views Election Law Violators

SK0901111693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0457 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam said Saturday all election law violators should be brought to justice and punished sternly to foster a cleaner political and election climate.

Big business leaders "have a duty and responsibility to perform for the welfare of the people," Kim declared. "If any of them abused corporate funds and manpower, he has to be punished according to the law."

Kim reiterated his determination to deal sternly with election law violators, dismissing speculation in some quarters that he may be lenient on them after all.

In a statement read by Yi Won-chong, party deputy spokesman, Kim said Chong Chu-yong's charges that the Bank of Korea printed 300 billion won for his campaign could constitute defamation.

Kim thus did not rule out the possibility that he could bring a suit against Chong, presidential candidate of the United People's Party. In this connection, Kim was reported Friday to be upset over a report that Cho Sun, governor of the Central Bank, had decided not to sue Chong.

Many analysts interpreted Kim's statement Saturday as a warning that he would take resolute measures against Chong and the Hyundai Business Group Chong founded.

It was also viewed as a signal for the judiciary to undertake an official investigation into Chong's remark that he gave 5 billion won to Rep. Yi Chong-chan, leader of the New Korea Party, when the two parties announced their merger Dec. 14.

Following the election, it was reported that Chong discreetly approached Kim, apparently trying to seek amicable action on the Hyundai Group.

Informed sources said, however, that Kim not only spurned his approach but showed displeasure, saying: "Some people mistook politics as some kind of technique that could help settle any problem ignoring the law and order of a democratic country."

During the election campaign, Chong reportedly "sprayed" money indiscriminately and, when the corrupt electioneering became an issue, he was quoted as saying: "What right do they have to interfere when I am spending the money I earned?"

But Kim believes that the Dec. 18 presidential election was the most degraded election in history since a business group had jumped into the race, one of his aides said.

Kim wanted to mete out strict measures to help prevent a recurrence of such political adventurism, which damaged national pride and the political environment, the aide said.

The aide said Kim had already asked the judicial branch of the government to take action against election law violators, especially those related to the UPP [United People's Party] and the Hyundai Group, before his inauguration lest their prosecution be viewed as a political vendetta by Kim.

Meets Dissident Leaders

SK0901111393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0810 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam met with dissident leaders including Rev. Pak Hyong-kyu Saturday to listen to their views on the future government reforms, a political source said.

Kim asked them for an active cooperation in his managing state affairs and heard their advice on the direction of reforms to establish "new Korea," the source said.

The dissident leaders were quoted as saying that lenient measures such as the restoration of civil rights and amnesty should be taken for those who were persecuted only because of their political beliefs.

But the President-elect didn't give a clear-cut answer for their request, just saying that he hopes to have contact with them more frequently in the days to come, the source said.

Vows Education Investment

SK0901062393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0501 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam promised bold investment to improve the quality of tertiary education in a meeting Saturday with members of the Korean Council for University Education (KCUE).

"I will resolve today's educational problems through broad educational reform," Kim told them.

"And special attention will be paid to relieving private universities, which account for 75 percent of campus education, of their financial straits, expanding liberalization of universities, and promoting provincial colleges."

He would fulfill his promise to become an "education president " and hoped to realize changes and reforms for a new era through educational renovation, Kim told KCUE chairman Kim Hui-chip and the other council members.

"I will center primary and secondary education on cultivating independence and creativity, and steer campus education toward developing the specialized skills that are needed in this changing international atmosphere and highly advanced industrial society," Kim vowed.

Noting that the government alone cannot improve the quality and atmosphere of university education, Kim urged the nation's students, parents and educators to help him keep his promise.

Kim promised KCUE his full support to recruit more graduates of provincial colleges and said he would invite many students to his inauguration ceremony.

Cabinet Selection Rules Viewed

SK0901031693 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Jan 93 pp 2, 4

[By staff reporter Choe Sang-hun]

[Text] When President-elect Kim Yong-sam sat down with his transition planners early this week for their first briefing, the first thing he did was to let them know who the boss was.

Kim said firmly that he, not they, would pick the people for his cabinet and other key government officials.

Over the New Year's holidays, Kim had grown uneasy about the ever-growing speculation over a "list" of possible cabinet appointments which was rumored to have been prepared by his transition aides.

"Look. I want you not to talk about personnel without first discussing it with me. I want no confusion, no cacophony," he told his transition team. With that, he put the issue behind him.

The episode provides an early insight into how the President-elect will choose the personnel for the administration which he launches Feb. 25.

Kim will have the ultimate power over awarding top administration jobs.

"The way he will pick his cabinet says a lot about his style of personnel management," said a close aide to Kim. "He does not rely on some committee to make recommendations. It is Kim Yong-sam at the center, working things out in his own head, in his own office, mostly by himself."

The way he built his transition team may be revealing of his tactics. Kim not only kept party officials in the dark about his choices until the official announcement, but the lineup included many figures who had not appeared on any of the "lists."

"The rumors which are swirling around out there mostly have no connection to the reality of what is going on inside Kim's head," the aide said.

Party sources generally believe that the President-elect will have chosen the "big three"—the prime minister, intelligence chief and presidential chief of staff—by early next month.

The three are likely to help Kim put the finishing touches on the selection of economic and foreign policy cabinet officers and other important political appointments.

Former Korea University President Kim Chun-yop and Ambassador to Britain Yi Hong-ku are both prominent names mentioned as likely candidates to become prime minister, sources said.

The transition speculation game has caught on in government offices and the majority Democratic Liberal Party headquarters, where rumors and hearsay abound.

Here are some of the rules that party insiders expect Kim to apply in selecting people for his new administration.

—He will avoid conflicts of interests and charges of nepotism. He has warned his relatives against trying to take government posts or working for special-interest groups.

He defused any potential controversy over the lobbying connection of transition aides by pledging to make all the final choices himself.

Former Army generals will have their presence significantly reduced in the first civilian government in more than three decades.

—Kim will seek a cabinet with an appropriate regional mix. One of his prominent campaign pledges was to utilize his personnel decisions as a vehicle to mitigate regionalism. He has said he will not be a "captive of localism."

For his transition team he selected a cross section of regional representatives. Some observers expect Kim to install Cholla natives in some of the key government posts, possibly including the prime minister.

—He wants appointees who will push his reform agenda. The idea is to salt reform-minded technocrats throughout the government with orders to keep their focus on his reform messages.

Kim ran his campaign on the theme of building a "New Korea," the rallying call for broad political and economic reforms. He aims to convey an impression of boldness and change during his first days at Chongwadae, but he said he will avoid "too radical measures" that could make the people uncomfortable.

It is a general practice that transition team members get plum jobs within the administration that they assemble. But party insiders say that may not be true this time. The transition team Kim unveiled last week was devoid of Kim's closest allies.

For those in Kim's inner circle, landing a top post is a matter of lying low and avoiding overexposure. It doesn't matter that they are not officially on the transition team. They are so central to Kim that they don't need a title. They include Reps. Kim Tok-ryong, Choe Hyong-u and So Sok-chae, who have been loyalists since the President-elect was an opposition leader.

There is also a group of politicians who are striving for a niche in Kim's inner sanctum. They are many, including Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, who have helped Kim Yong-sam to win the power struggle over the majority party leadership.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae, already a Kim Yong-sam favorite, won high marks by waging an effective verbal counterattack against the vociferous minority parties during the campaign. A lawyer-turned- politician,he has most often been mentioned as a possible justice minister.

There are still numerous administration wanna-bes. They will all be anxiously waiting for the call from Kim or for feelers to arrive, from now till Feb. 25.

Adverse to Inauguration Holiday

SK0901010293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0014 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam does not want Feb. 25, inauguration day, to be a public holiday, Chong Won-sik, chairman of his transition team, says.

"We'll have to wait and see how the general public would react to having a temporary holiday since the president-elect has been stressing the revitalizion of Korea," Chong told reporters Friday.

Chong reminded reporters that there had been a body of opinion that election day Dec. 18 be a working day.

Another one of Kim's aides said he understands that Kim has always believed that the country has too many holidays.

Urges Completion of Investigations

SK0801031593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0234 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam has asked the government to wrap up its investigation into election violations and a North Korean espionage ring before he is sworn in, his aides said Friday.

Kim wants to avoid legal action against election law violators after he takes office lest it be seen as political revenge, they said.

He had requested early announcement of the results of the investigation to dispel suspicion that South Korean politicians were linked to the North Korean espionage ring, the aides said.

The espionage probe was delayed by the Dec. 18 presidential election. Kim will be sworn in on Feb. 25.

Kim made his position on these two issues clear to Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong on Monday, and Chong Won-sik, head of his transition team, relayed the same message to the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), they said.

The NSP has reportedly been mobilized to complete its investigation while the government is still in power and to decide on indictments.

"The espionage incident should have been closed before the presidential election," a close aide said. "There is no longer any reason to delay the announcement.

"Investigation supposedly continued throughout the election campaign period, but we believe it is still far from complete. The probe must be concluded fully and as soon as possible under the current government."

DLP To Merge Government-Supported Civil Movements

SK1101085193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is to create a new civil movement by merging all government- supported civil movements, party spokesman Pak Hui-tae said Monday.

Senior DLP officials agreed in a meeting Monday that the nation was in need of a spiritual revival and a movement to reshape people's thinking that would revitalize Korean society, Pak said. The DLP policy committee would work out detailed plans for merging all government-supported civil movements, he said.

The Saemaul Undong (New Community Movement) as a "successful movement which played the role of a spiritual mainstay for the modernization of the country during the Third Republic era," Pak said, so his party had decided to combine all existing movements of various types into a powerful new one.

"The new organization will be a civil-led movement that will be assisted by the party so that it can reform the public consciousness," he said. On the chopping block are the national councils for Saemaeul Undong, Bareuge Salgi Undong (Living Rightly Movement) and Saesaenghwal Saejilsoe Undong (New Life and New Order Movement).

Meanwhile, the opposition Democratic Party called on the DLP to scrap immediately its idea of unifying the movements, labelling it a "move to revive the legacy of military culture such as a government-led movement." The DLP was also urged to convert official-circle organizations into purely civilian ones.

Democratic Party To Be Run by Supreme Council

SK1101065393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Party decided Monday to be run by an executive chairman sitting at the head of a supreme council with eight members. If the council cannot reach agreement on a decision, the decision will be made by voting with the chairman having the casting vote. The change will be approved in a party affairs meeting Wednesday and adopted at the national convention in March. The party has yet to decide how to choose the council members and chairman.

Party Considers Repatriation of Yi In-mo

SK1001063693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0619 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam's camp and the majority Liberal Democratic Party [as received] are carefully studying the possible repatriation of Yi In-mo, a self-styled North Korean war correspondent caught in the South as a guerrilla fighter during the Korean war, to the North without any condition, it was learned Sunday. The president-elect's camp is also consulting with the incumbent administration on a sweeping parole for most of politically implicated prisoners.

The parole, if actually made, would affect those leftist prisoners aged 70 or older who refused to change allegiance, entire student prisoners excepting those involved in the Tong-ui University incident, those involved in labor disturbances, and Rev. Mun Ik- hwan.

"The dominating opinions at our committee is that it is desirable to withdraw the conditions attached to Yi In-mo's repatriation and send him back to the North unconditionally not only as a humanitarian gesture but also to provide a breakthrough in deadlocked inter-Korean dialogue," said a senior official taking part in the president-elect's transition committee.

Yi In-mo spent decades in prison until the late 1980's, most of it for his refusal to renounce his communist thought. The North has been demanding his repatriation.

"We have studied his case from many angles. And many people voiced the views that his unconditional repatriation would rather serve to play up the supremacy and humanity of our system," the official said.

He said that by sending him back to the North, the South would perhaps reap the effect of prompting the North to reciprocate it by sending South Koreans being held there to the South and also of applying an added pressure upon Pyongyang for the resumption of dialogue.

The incumbent administration has demanded the repatriation of the crew members of hijacked fishing boat, Tongjin-ho, the creation of a dispersed family reunion center at Panmunjom, and regular exchanges of hometown visitors as prerequisites to his repatriation.

The official said that if and when Yi In-mo were repatriated, North Korea would exploit him much in terms of propaganda making him a national hero on a short-term basis but they won't be able to cover up the wide gap existing between the two systems for long.

"The time will surely come when Yi In-mo's repatriation would weight the Pyongyang regime as a heavy burden," he said.

Another official of the transition team said that since the offenses committed by most of those prisoners serving for violating the National Security Law are lesser in gravity than the violation made by already freed Miss Yim Su-kyong, most of them would be paroled.

"But, those involved in the Tong-ui University incident would be excepted or only part of them would be included because the incident in which several policemen were killed is different in nature from other incidents," he said.

It is likely the parole will be effected on Feb. 26 or 27 immediately after Kim Yong-sam's inauguration, he added.

Prosecution To Question Chong Chu-yong

SK0901072193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0646 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—The prosecution said Saturday that it will issue a summons for Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai group and the United People's Party [UPP], late this month.

Chong, who ran in the presidential election last year, accused the Bank of Korea during his campaign of giving Kim Yong-sam, the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] candidate, 300 billion won, and the bank sued Chong for defamation.

Chong recently offered an apology indirectly by telling reporters that he mistakenly talked openly without checking his information. The bank withdrew the suit.

A prosecution official said the investigation would be continued with regard to the accusation, however, since the DLP has already filed defamation charges over it.

Questioning of Chong was inevitable in view of the alleged transfer of corporate money by the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. to the UPP election campaign, his request for Hyundai company presidents to support the UPP, and his remarks in favor of the establishment of a communist party, a prosecution spokesman said.

Assembly To Get Closed Circuit TV Coverage

SK0901045593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0253 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—Television cameras will be introduced into the National Assembly this year to provide full coverage of activities in the house and committee meetings, a source revealed Saturday.

The assembly will spend around 5 billion won (6.37 million U.S. dollars) to set up its own station, which will provide coverage of parliamentarians' activities on closed-circuit television with sets in every corner of the National Assembly building, the source said.

Television networks will, if necessary, be provided with footage from the October sitting, the source said.

Assembly To Consider Computer Copyright Law

SK0601053893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Heavier penalties will be imposed on those who infringed upon the copyrights of computer programs as violations of the relevant law are sharply increasing.

A fine of 20 million won (about 25,000 U.S. dollars), nearly seven times the current 3 million won, will be levied on the infringement of computer program copyrights, according to a draft amendment to the Law on the Protection of Computer Program put on notice by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Illegal trading and copying of software will be banned under the revised law and punishment of those violators will be reinforced.

The contents of the draft amendment will be finalized through public hearings and the bill will be submitted to the National Assembly for deliberation during the extraordinary session in June.

An arbitration panel will be introduced to resolve disputes over computer programs before conflicting parties go to court, according to the draft amendment.

Instead of the current "Deliberation Committee on Computer Programs" which serves as a mere advisory body for policies related to computer program protection, the deliberation and arbitration committee will be set up to mediate between conflicting parties.

Those who install computer viruses and disseminate them will also be subject to punishment under the Criminal Law.

Copyrights will be protected when they are licensed to others. At present, trading agents make profits by installing software in the absence of consent from copyright holders.

Even those who use illegally-copied computer programs will also be punished even though they are not involved in illegal copying.

The law on the protection of computer software went into effect on July 1, 1987 but proved ineffective in the protection of copyrights, thus making the amendment necessary.

DLP To Send Assembly Delegation to Geneva Trade Talks

SK0601051193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0322 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] plans to send five National Assemblymen to Geneva around Jan. 20 to help Korean negotiators in the Uruguay Round global trade talks.

DLP floor leader Kim Yong-tae said Wednesday that Pak Su-kil, ambassador to Geneva and chief negotiator, had asked for the parliamentary mission to help Korea's negotiating team.

The DLP would send five members of the National Assembly agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries committee no later than Jan. 20 after consulting with the minority parties, he said. The team will be headed by Rep. Chong Si-chae, chairman of the committee.

Opposition Seeks Role as Political Force

SK0501095993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0733 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 5 (YONHAP)—Opposition parties, picking up the pieces from a crushing defeat in the presidential election, are trying to rebuild into a political force that can check the ruling party and government of Kim Yong-sam.

President-elect Kim's transition team, meanwhile, is expected to work on measures to carry out campaign pledges that require handling by the administration immediately following Kim's inauguration on Feb. 25.

As a result, the presidential transition committee, headed by former Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, plans to meet Wednesday to discuss the issue before being briefed on government business by the outgoing administration from Saturday.

Three top officials of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, in tune with the transition team, in a meeting presided over by Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil, decided to meet regularly to provide the administration with party support.

The main oppositon Democratic Party [DP] has a huge task of replacing Kim Tae-chung as leader. Kim retired from active politics after being beaten by his erstwhile fellow opposition leader in the Dec. 18 election.

Yi Ki-taek, trying to step into Kim Tae-chung's shoes, held a meeting of the DP Supreme Council on Tuesday to discuss problems related to restructuring the leadership and to set a date for the party's national convention this spring.

Yi was to meet separately with Reps. Kim Yong-pae and Kim Won-ki, both members of the Supreme Council, Tuesday following his get-together Monday with Supreme Council members Kim Chong-kil, Yi Pu-yong and Kim Sang-hyon.

Followers of Kim Tae-chung are pushing a formula in which the party selects nine chairmen, or members of the Supreme Council, who in turn will elect the executive chairman of the party. The party will then be run by the executive chairman in consultation with chairmen.

But Yi Ki-taek, Kim Chong-kil, Kim Sang-hyon and others want to elect the executive chairman in a free ballot by all party members before choosing eight chairmen.

With regard to the timing of the national convention, the Kim Tae-chung followers want it in March whereas Yi Ki-taek and his supporters wish to hold it in February, possibly before the inauguration, to show the solidarity of the opposition force to the ruling party.

Party leaders, however, are expected to reach a compromise and suggest a date between the end of February and early March.

The Democratic Party also plans to hold public hearings from representative figures of various segments of society on the direction of the opposition party.

Chong Chu-yong's United People's Party [UPP], meanwhile, scrapped its merger agreement with Rep. Yi Chong-chan's New Korea Party.

It plans to form a committee to discuss party restructuring problems and revise the party charter to reduce the number of Executive Council members to three or four from the currently allowed 15.

A controversy was brewing in the party, however, as there was an increasing body of opinion among some senior party members that the UPP, which had been Chong Chu-yong's one-man show for all intents and purposes, should change its leadership to a collective one.

In a separate development, the Democratic Party has decided to ask the Democratic Liberal Party and the United People's Party to convene an extra session of the National Assembly on Jan. 25 to discuss pressing problems affecting the livelihood of the people.

The Democratic Party also wants to pursue remarks by Kim Yong-sam during presidential campaigns that questioned the "ideological color" of Kim Tae-chung. The DP claims that Kim Yong-sam, without backing up his allegation with facts, gave an impression that Kim Tae-chung and the DP were somehow soft on communism.

While demanding an apology from Kim for his remarks, the Democratic Party wants to find out the truth about a report by American newspaper columnist Jack Anderson that two of Kim Yong-sam's aides visited North Korea without government permit.

DP Campaign Spending Below Legal Limit

SK0501062593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0522 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 5 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Party [DP] said Tuesday that it spent less than the legal limit on Kim Tae-chung's presidential election campaign.

The party spent 23,995,853,944 won (3.1 million U.S. dollars) on Kim's campaign, below the legal ceiling of 36,700,787,000 won set by the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC), a DP spokesman said.

It spent 9,348 million won on allowances for campaign staff, 6,883 million won on advertising, 2,416 million won on speeches, 2,124 million won to rent cars and sound magnifiers, 1,289 million won on allowances for observers and 10,82 [as received] million won on office space.

The DP submitted its accounts to the CEMC on Tuesday.

Democratic Party To Send Group to Clinton Inauguration

SK0501055893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0502 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 5 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party will send an eight-member mission to attend the inauguration of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, the party decided Tuesday. The team will be headed by Rep. Son Se-il, chairman of the party's unification and international affairs committee.

Government Urges Taiwan School Not To Fly Flag Outdoors

SK1101104893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0953 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—The government has been urging the Taiwan-controlled Chinese school at Myong-dong, Seoul, not to use the Republic of China [ROC] flag outdoor, a diplomatic source said Monday.

The source said that in a letter to the Taiwan-Chinese Residents Association in Seoul, the government noted that the outdoor use of the ROC flag runs counter to the government policy of recognizing mainland China as the only legitimate government of China. It also violates Korea's law on flags which prohibits the outdoor use of the national flag of a country with which Korea maintains no diplomatic relations, the message said. The source said that there is no change in the government policy to guarantee the social activities and legal status of Taiwan-Chinese residents in Korea even after the severance of formal ties with Taiwan.

But, the school's insistence on the outdoor use of their national flag despite the repeated urging by the government, constituted "unnecessary political activities" not allowed among the citizens of a country Korea has no formal ties with.

Noting that most other countries that opened formal relations with mainland China ban the outdoor raising of the ROC flag, the source said the government's stand is to tolerate indoor use of the flag but not its outdoor use.

The source added that since the cutoff of their diplomatic ties, Korea and Taiwan have been contacting unofficially to re-establish their informal relations. But, no progress has been registered so far due to Taiwan's persisting request for permission to use their formal national title and flag, the source added.

Government Plans To Restore Relations With Taiwan

SK1101100693 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 11 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] The next government plans to send a working-level delegation to Taiwan early next month in light of its upcoming inauguration on 25 February. This delegation will contribute to upgrading ROK-Taiwan relations to the level of "highest civilian relations."

A high-ranking government official said on 11 January: After the new government is inaugurated, it will try to normalize ROK-Taiwan relations. These relations cooled when the ROK and the PRC established diplomatic relations. The government also plans to allow Taiwan to use its national flag and its state name in the ROK.

He added: The new Taiwan cabinet will be formed early next month after its general election. Our government's working-level delegation will visit Taiwan at that time. It will mainly discuss ways to restore ROK-Taiwan relations.

Government To Propose Abolishing Semiconductor Import Tariff

SK1201012893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will propose removal of its 9-percent tariff on semiconductor imports and a guarantee of the suspension agreement in talks with the U.S. Government on dumping allegations made against Korean products by U.S. companies, a government official said Tuesday.

Assistant Trade and Industry Minister Chae Chae-uk will start negotiating a Korea-U.S. semiconductor agreement with U.S. officials from the Commerce Department and Trade Representative on Wednesday in Washington for three days.

Seoul's draft of the agreement suggests abolition of duties on semiconductor imports and support for the suspension agreement, sought by Korean companies alleged to have dumped D-ram (dynamic random access memory) chips in the U.S. market, the official said.

Exactly when Seoul breaks the import duties will depend on the result of an inspection of Korean semiconductor exporters charged with a preliminary dumping finding by the commerce department. The Korean government has prepared four negotiating positions to cope with possible results of the on-the-spot U.S. inspection of Korean companies here in November. The result is due Tuesday, the official said.

Japan withdrew its customs duties on semiconductor imports in 1985 and promised to keep 20 percent of its market open to U.S. products in the second round of negotiations on a U.S.-Japan semiconductor agreement.

Korea need not include the pledge to open its market in its agreement because it already has free market access, the official said.

Should little progress come out of the talks before the Jan. 28 deadline on submission of the suspension agreement's rough draft and drag the Korean companies to a final anti-dumping determination, scheduled for March 15, Korean semiconductor exports to the United States would virtually halt, he said.

Samsung To Set Up TDX Joint Venture in PRC's Shandong Province

SK1201013493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0120 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—Samsung Electronics Co. said Tuesday it has received permission from the Chinese Government to set up a joint-venture company in Weihai, Shandong Province, to manufacture telephone switching equipment. The time-division exchanges (TDX) made by the factory were certain to win formal approval from the Chinese Government, a Samsung spokesman said. Samsung will invest 90 million U.S. dollars in the factory, work on which will start this year with approval of the Korean Government.

The only TDX manufacturers to have won Chinese approval so far are Siemens of Germany, Alcatel of France and NEC of Japan, he said. China plans to develop its communications network at a cost of 6 billion dollars by 1995.

Communications companies from around the world are competing to enter the Chinese market. Korean companies have been troubled as China says it will buy its communications facilities from South Korea only with loans offered by Seoul. Korean companies are asking the government to increase loans to China so that they can sell it more communications equipment.

Planning Board Says Falling Oil Prices Help Economy

SK1101032993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—Korea is paying nearly a dollar a barrel less for crude oil than four months ago and this will help it to stabilize prices and improve its international payments situation, Economic Planning Board officials said Monday. Dubai Light was 18.4 U.S. dollars a barrel in September, 17.2 dollars in November, 16.2 dollars in December and 15.38 dollars on Jan. 8. Oman Oil was 18.9 dollars in September, 17.7 dollars in November, 16.7 dollars in December and is below 16 dollars now. North Sea Brent stood over 20 dollars in September and is 17.3- 17.4 dollars now.

The average price Korea was paying for its oil was 18.6 dollars in September, 18.74 dollars in October, 18.64 dollars in November, and 17.84 dollars in December.

Turnover From Overseas Businesses Reaches $4.8 Billion

SK1101032593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—Estimated turnover of the overseas operations of South Korean companies was 4.8 billion U.S. dollars last year, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Monday. The ministry sent questionaires to 918 companies with more than 50 percent of the equity in a production facility abroad, and received replies from 317 companies.

The respondents reported sales of 1.78 billion dollars by their overseas operations by the third quarter of 1992, and their total for the year was estimated at 2.54 billion dollars. Assuming similar turnover for the 601 companies that did not reply, total turnover for overseas operations was at least 4.8 billion dollars last year.

Electronics and other pre-fabricated metals topped the list with 1.27 billion dollars, followed by primary metals with 789 million dollars, textiles and garment with 701 million dollars, petrochemicals with 562 million dollars, footwear and leather with 351 million dollars, nonferrous metals with 201 million dollars, foods and beverages with 163 million dollars and machinery equipment with 140 million dollars. Paper and printing produced turnover of 119 million dollars, and timber and furniture had 95 million dollars.

Local sales accounted for 51.8 percent with 926 million dollars, exports to third countries totaled 38 percent (679 million dollars), and exports to Korea amounted to 10.2 percent (181 million dollars).

Imports from Korea accounted for 37.8 percent with 675 million dollars, showing that exports of Korean products increased due to overseas production, the ministry said.

As for the sales of light industrial goods, exports to third countries took up 64 percent, local sales for 21.6 percent and exports to Korea for 14.4 percent.

For heavy chemical products, local sales accounted for 68.2 percent, followed by exports to third countries (23.9 percent) and exports to Korea (7.9 percent).

PRC Emerging as Largest Overseas Electronic Production Base

SK1101020493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0111 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—China will emerge as the largest overseas production base for South Korea's electronics giants this year, with the number of their joint-venture plants in the communist country growing from 13 last year to 20.

Samsung Electronics Co., which has signed a contract to build a factory with an annual capacity of 600,000 video cassette recorders in Tianjin, is poised to construct an audio equipment plant in Guangdong Province, and a semiconductor assembly factory and a time division exchange (TDX) plant in Shandong Province this year. Ground will be broken for the audio equipment and TDX plants in the first half of this year, according to industry sources.

Hyundai Electronics Industrial Co. is probing the feasibility of having three joint-venture plants producing semiconductors, computers and audio equipment in China. Chong Mong-hun, chairman of the company, flew to China on Jan. 6 and is to stay until next Sunday to discuss the plans with Chinese officials. Beijing, Dalian, Qingdao and Shanghai are being examined as the most promising candidate cities for Hyundai's investment, the sources said.

Goldstar Co. is pushing plans to set up VCR, television and audio equipment plants in China. It is most likely to conclude a contract for the VCR plant this year.

Foreign Ministry Predicts 6.8 Percent Economic Growth

SK1101020293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea's economy will expand 6.8 percent this year, compared with 2.3 percent for the world economy, the Foreign Ministry forecast Monday. The ministry based its forecast on reports by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Korean missions overseas. The figure is lower than the ministry had expected due to Germany's high interest rates and Japan's dour economic climate, a ministry spokesman said.

The OECD said that Korea, whose growth rate of 6.5 percent last year was its lowest since 1981, would register 6.8 percent growth this year thanks to expanded investment, low wage hikes and improvements in its export performance. The Bank of Korea predicts Korea's economic growth at 6.4 percent in 1993.

Asian economies are anticipated to dip to 6.4 percent growth this year from 6.6 percent last year, but the four dragons of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong kong plus Thailand and Malaysia are viewed to record rates upwards of 6.8 percent, the spokesman said. In particular, China's economic growth will slow down from last year's 12 percent to 9 percent, still the highest growth rate in the region, as it is seen to put an emphasis on stability.

In addition, the United States is seen to grow 3 percent this year and keep a steady 2.5 percent rate in the 1994-1997 period, while Japan is expected to have a 2.3-2.4 percent rate this year and to mark 3.1 percent next year. The European community is expected to register 1-2 percent expansion this year and 3 percent after 1994 if its economic policies take hold. Russia, which saw 18.6-percent contraction of its economy last year, is expected to shrink 4-7 percent this year, and the other former communist economies are forecast to shrink 5.4-percent on average.

Southern Firms Buy Garments From North Korea

SK0901044593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korean trading companies bought 200,000 pieces of garment and 12,000 pairs of shoes from North Korea in the second half of last year.

Shinsung Tongsang Co. imported 180,000 working garments for 1.3 million U.S. dollars in October via a trading company in Hong Kong and sold them to the Daewoo Group. The garments are made by a large textile company in North Korea and Daewoo issued them to its workers.

Hyosung Corp. purchased 10,800 garments for men and Se-ung Trading Co. is selling them at 12,000 won each.

Seyoung Corp. sent raw materials to a textile company in Pyongyang in May and received 3,000 jackets for women at 33,000 dollars.

Samsung Co. purchased 10,000 blue jeans in August and Ssangyong Corp. bought 12,000 pairs of shoes in September.

Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. is to buy 10,000 working garments.

FKI Urges Renovation of Financial Industry

SK0601034593 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Jan 93 p 9

[Text] The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) yesterday called for a reform of the financial industry in order to strengthen the international competitiveness of manufacturing industries.

In a New Year's conference held at the Seoul Press Center, the federation said that the renovation of the financial industry will help smooth "social efficiency" and contribute to technological development.

The FKI especially called upon the government to lower bank interest rates to international levels so as to help manufacturing industries increase their competitiveness abroad.

The nation's largest private economic organization emphasized that the next administration should create a 'pleasant and ardent' work climate.

FKI Chairman Yu Chang-sun led a federation delegation to the conference. Among them were three deputy chairmen—Choe Chong-whan, Cho Suk-nae, and Chang Chi-heok, executive deputy chairman Choe Chang-nak and Choe Tae-sop, chairman emeritus of Hankuk Glass Industry.

The federation said that the Kim Yong-sam administration should sort out its presidential election pledges and policies in accordance with their priority and reflect pan-national opinions sufficiently in carrying out them.

The FKI called upon manufacturing industries to double their efforts to improve their productivity in a bid to survive in international markets.

In particular, the federation asked them to renovate their management and restructure their business so that they can develop into top class enterprises in the near future.

It also insisted that they should endeavor to develop as people's business based on the creation of a righteous industrial image.

In the meantime, Yu said that there will be no change in how the next chairman of the FKI will be elected in February after the expiration of his second two-year term.

That means that next federation leader will be picked by FKI seniors.

Office Workers Polled on Opening Rice Market

SK0501083493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 5 (YONHAP)—Four out of five office workers in Seoul say they are harboring the idea of not buying foreign rice if Korea opens its grain market, according to a magazine poll.

FOOD AND HYGIENE, which carries the survey in its January edition, polled 1,980 office workers in Seoul on rice market opening.

Of them, 42.6 percent said that they "wouldn't purchase" U.S. rice if it was on sale here, and 36.7 percent said that they "absolutely wouldn't purchase" it. But 7.6 percent "would buy" U.S. rice if it was available in shops.

While 61.7 percent said that the market should not be opened, 29.7 percent said it had to be opened sometime and 5 percent favored opening.

Asked if Korea was able to cope with rice market opening, 59.8 percent said "no" and 17.6 percent said "a little."

New agricultural policies were needed to overcome opening pressure, 54.7 percent said, and 37.9 percent said measures should be taken in compliance with the international currents.

The most serious problem created by market opening would be the damage to farmers, 61.5 percent said.

Picked as the most desirable measures to help farmers the impending crisis -[as received] are active government subsidy (32.3 percent), measures to promote farm production (29.6) and development of processed rice products (20.4).

A majority of 66.2 percent proposed a "no-buy campaign" against imported rice as the best countermeasure to opening, saying Koreans should eat Korean rice.

Others called for Korean farmers to grow better quality rice and for distribution to be improved to overcome rice market liberalization.

Industry Structure 'Shifting' Toward Competition

SK0501040093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Jan 93 p 9

[Text] Korea's industrial structure is shifting gradually toward fair and free competition as the market share of dominant firms decreases.

The Fair Trade Commission [FTC] yesterday designated 355 firms that produce 140 items as dominant market players. The designation prohibits them from taking advantage of market dominating positions.

Last year, the number of dominant firms stood at 352 producing 144 items.

Forty-eight firms producing 20 items were newly added to the list while 51 making 24 items were erased off, the FTC said. Among the list of newly designated dominant firms were Lotte Ham, Lotte Milk manufacturing sausage and Namyang, Seoul and Haitai Milk, all producers of cheese.

The designation of dominant firms is in line with guidelines stipulated in the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act (MRA). The law provides the designation if a firm has total domestic sales of over 30 billion won in the latest year or a firm whose market share dominated more than 50 percent of the pertinent market.

Once designated, a firm is prohibited from determining price, restraining output, hindering new entry, eliminating a competitor or otherwise restricting competition.

Given the designation trend over the past few years, the FTC said, the industrial structure is gradually changing into a competitive format with fair and free trade rules taking root.

The FTC said the newly designated firms were mostly in line with increases in their sales, not by rises in market share.

The criterion for dominant market players is due to be raised to 50 billion won in annual sales from the present 30 billion won in accordance with hikes in the overall economic scale, the FTC said.

Mining and manufacturing industries will continue to experience stagnation in the first quarter of this year, according to a report on their business prospects released by the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

The report said the overall BSI (Business Survey Index), which measures business outlook several months in advance, is 94 for the January-March period.

If the BSI is over 100, business will be more brisk.

The report, however, said the overall BSI, after factoring in seasonal factors, was 105, which means that the business outlook for the first quarter will remain slightly stronger than the previous quarter. Manufacturing's BSI was 95 while mining's was a stagnant 62.

The KCCI said the combination of export slowdown and sluggish domestic demand will cause a slump in profits for businesses. On the export front, Korean goods will face tighter import barriers from industrialized nations and will see a drop in their market share brought upon by cheaper exports from low-cost developing countries.

By industry, the report painted a rosy picture for the food and beverages, wood and paper products and chemicals industries. Food and beverages will get a boost in line with the public's preference for higher quality goods and stable farm products prices. A sharp expansion in production capacity and an increase in exports to China and Southeast Asia will help boost the chemicals industry.

By contrast, textiles and leather goods will suffer setbacks due to an influx of low-priced imports and decreasing sales. Non-metallic mineral goods will continue to experience a slowdown due to shrinking demand in the construction industry.

Primary metals and machinery manufacturing will face difficulties because of slow domestic demand and sluggish investment.

Seoul To Promote 'Fairness' in Tax Reform

SK0501035993 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Jan 93 p 10

[Text] Finance Minister Yi Yong-man said Korea will conduct a tax reform this year to promote fairness and neutrality in its tax structure.

In a New Year's speech, Yi said a comprehensive review will be made on the current Tax Exemption and Reduction Law.

The Ministry of Finance (MOF) will impose a higher tax on transferring of shares among major shareholders of business groups in a move to ease economic concentration.

A readjustment on the special excise tax system and supplementary measures on the value added tax system will be taken, he said.

Yi said tax reform is inevitable to meet the government's increasing expenditures in promoting national welfare and to ensure economic justice.

He said the MOF will map out a plan to internationalize the stock market to activate inbound and outbound portfolio investment.

He said the central bank will auction monetary stabilization bonds, instead of forcibly allocating them to financial institutions, to implement the market-based monetary policy.

Under the auction system, the central bank will sell its bonds at prevailing market rates, moving away from the current direct allocation of bonds to all financial institutions against their will.

Prosecution Launches 'Crackdown' on Foreign Trademark Piracy

SK1001032193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—The prosecution has launched a crackdown on the piracy of foreign trademarks and intellectual rights.

The countrywide control was ordered by the prosecutor general's office Saturday amid growing cases of violation of foreign commodity rights. A prosecution source said that subject to the crackdown are the acts of piracy of foreign trademarks such as those of bags and garments, and the illegal reproduction of foreign computer softwares, disks, video tapes and publications.

In Seoul, the Seoul district prosecutor's office promptly embarked on the control Saturday after a strategy meeting among officials from relevant offices—culture and science-technology ministries, office of patent, Seoul police and the prosecution.

"Apart from the need to control illegal activities, we fear if such infringement were left unchecked, it may lead to added trade pressure from advanced countries. We will deal harshly with those found to have violated foreign commodity rights," the source said.

Foreign Ministry Announces Cultural Ambassador

SK0901062493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0522 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry has named Ko Chang-su as South Korea's first ambassador for international cultural cooperation to promote Korean studies abroad, officials said Saturday.

Ko, 59, will spend a year as culture ambassador, attending international seminars and encouraging colleges and research centers to establish Korean studies departments.

The Education Ministry spent approximately 3 million U.S. dollars last year to promote Korean studies abroad, but the project was handed to the Korea foundation. The culture ambassador will now take charge of the project.

Ko has a bachelor's in English literature from Songkyunkwan University and entered the Foreign Ministry in 1965.

He has served as counsellor to the South Korean mission at the United Nations, presidential secretary for protocol, minister to Indonesia and ambassador to Ethiopia.

He returned from his latest overseas posting, consul-general to Seattle in Washington, in August last year.

Unification Board Minister Interviewed 5 Jan

SK0601041793 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 5 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Choe Yong-chol, deputy prime minister and minister of the Board of National Unification, by TONG-A ILBO reporter Pak Che-kyun on 5 January on the occasion of the New Year—place not given]

[Text] "South-North summit talks are very effective in resolving the South-North issue as soon as possible. North Korea recognizes the necessity of holding the summit talks. The problem is when to hold the summit talks. I believe that the summit talks will be held naturally."

During his New Year's interview on 5 January, Choe Yong-chol, deputy prime minister and minister of the Board of National Unification, expressed his opinion as such and continued: "The most effective way to solve problems between countries, especially between divided countries, is to hold summit talks. This was proven in the reunification process of Germany and Yemen."

He emphasized: "If possible it is effective to hold summit talks as soon as possible. However, the summit talks itself should not become the purpose."

[Pak Che-kyun] How do you view this year's South-North relations?

[Choe Yong-chol] South-North relations which were developing smoothly since the adoption of the South-North agreement are not in a stalemate. I view this only as a temporary phenomenon. The South-North agreement which was effectuated last year marked a new era in South-North relations. South-North dialogue can be progressed based on this. Moreover, since new environments are being created such as a new government setting sail in South Korea and North Korea having reorganized its cabinet, the need to have dialogue will be enhanced.

[Pak] The nuclear issue is putting a stop to the overall South-North relations...

[Choe] I believe that North Korea will show change sometime this year on the nuclear issue. North Korea will come to realize that it will be of no interest to be stubborn about the nuclear issue. Therefore it seems that in whatever form, North Korea will show change.

[Pak] Can't our side show flexibility in adopting regulations for inspection to resolve the nuclear issue?

[Choe] The problem now is the attitude of the North side. The actual circumstance is that North Korea is refusing to hold the members' contact of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Committee which is for practical discussions on adopting regulations for inspection. If North Korea has neither the ability nor the intention to develop nuclear weapons there is no reason for the North to not show us its nuclear facilities. Therefore, there is no reason for us to revise our nuclear policy at this time.

[Pak] How much suspicion is there of North Korea's nuclear development?

[Choe] I cannot say just how much but when putting together various information, there is strong suspicion that is has stored enough plutonium to produce one nuclear bomb. To dissolve this suspicion, North Korea should show us facilities that are raising suspicions.

[Pak] Won't there be any problems in holding dialogue between President-elect Kim Yong-sam's government, which strongly put forth 'the theory of color' during the 14th presidential election campaigning, and North Korea?

[Choe] In his New Year address, North Korean President Kim Il-song stated that 'I will hold dialogue with anyone without questioning the past if it is for reunification.' It is being analyzed that this is a step back in its position when it strongly criticized President-elect Kim Yong-sam during the presidential election. Also in his New Year address, President Kim Il-song was restraining from direct slander against the South which was the case in the past. Summing up, it seems that a possibility has been opened for dialogue with the new government.

[Pak] When do you think that South-North dialogue will resume?

[Choe] I believe it will be after the holding of the Team Spirit exercise because North Korea is showing a resolute position on this matter. I believe talk on holding dialogue will be promoted in late April when festivities of Kim Chong-il's birthday, which is 16 February, and Kim Il-song's birthday, which is 15 April, are over. It seems that full-dress dialogue will be resumed sometime in May.

[Pak] How do you view changes taking place in North Korea?

[Choe] There are two things that are in common between North Korea's cabinet reshuffle in November of last year and Kim Il-song's New Year address. One is on 'adhering to our own style of socialism,' and the other is to find a way out of the difficulties through economic reform and opening up. North Korea recognizes that it is difficult to achieve economic development in such a closed system as now exists. They are also worried about the people's agitation of thought. Because of this kind of situation it seems that for the time being North Korea will continue to try to 'catch two rabbits at the same time.' That is it will for the time being carry out economic reform and open policy and censorship of the people's ideology at the same time.

[Pak] Do you think that this will be successful?

[Choe] It seems that with this kind of policy, North Korea is following the model of China. However, since North Korea is trying to maintain a substantially more closed system than China, there will be many difficulties.

[Pak] As the last minister of the Board of National Unification of the current government, what would you like to say to the people who will be in charge of the reunification policy in the next government?

[Choe] Some people are skeptical about the possibility of achieving reunification. However, the more we hasten the work to achieve reunification the more it will be beneficial to the nation. On this assumption, I hope that they will show a progressive attitude in dealing with South-North dialogue.

Illegal Immigrants Apply To Stay Until June

SK0901063993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0533 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—Some 29,000 foreigners working illegally in the manufacturing industry in South Korea have come forward to apply for government permission to stay until the end of June, the Justice Ministry said Saturday.

The figure represented 80 percent of the 35,000 foreign workers that the government permitted to stay until the end of 1992, the ministry said. The 35,000 were among 61,000 illegal foreign workers who voluntarily reported to the government in July and August 1992.

The ministry said it would deport any foreign worker who failed to report during the two-week period in December when the government accepted applications.

Cheju Maritime Police Arrest Two Chinese

SK0501050993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Cheju, Jan. 5 (YONHAP)—The Cheju Maritime Police arrested two Chinese skippers Tuesday for violating Korean territorial waters.

Fu Changchong, 35, and Fu Changyan, 36, skippers of the 72-ton fishing vessels the "Suquannanyu" No. 1207 and No. 1208 were caught Sunday while illegally fishing near Cheju island.

The Fu brothers and their ships encroached some 16 kilometers into Korean waters around 1:40 PM Sunday and netted six boxes of fish 10km south of Woodo, an island north of Cheju, the spokesman said.

Burma

Chief Justice Addresses National Convention 11 Jan

BK1101151193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Speech by Chief Justice U Aung Toe, chairman of the Work Committee for convening the National Convention, at the Presidential House Compound in Rangoon on 11 January—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Dear delegates of the National Convention: I extend my greetings for the mental and physical well-being of all delegates.

As the delegates are aware, at this National Convention the discussion on basic principles for drawing up a constitution that will be compatible with the absolute situation of Myanmar [Burma]—the natural position of the country, including history, politics, the economy, social culture, and the tradition of the country—has to be based on the following objectives: Nondisintegration of the union; nondisintegration of national solidarity; perpetuation of sovereignty; the emergence of a genuine multiparty democratic system; development of lawkapala [external] principles of justice, freedom, and equality; and the participation of the Defense Services in the leading role in future national politics.

If this National Convention clearly provides the principles based on the six objectives then there will be no difficulty at all drawing up a firm constitution for the country. Thus, while discussing any individual topic—which will be based on the topics that are usually included in constitutions of other countries as well as necessary topics due to the significant situation in our country—I urge you to include the basic principles that are completed with the six objectives that I have just mentioned. If I have to present what should be discussed on procedures to provide basic principles for drawing up a constitution, then I will present the topic of structure of the state first.

Structure of the state is the most fundamental element in the constitution and it is usually mentioned first in the constitutions of most countries. There are designated regions in the state; in other words, they are territories of the state. One can learn how national races who live in the country make use of the sovereignty of the state that comprises these regions; in other words, the three elements of sovereignty—legislation, administration, and judiciary—and how the state is being structured based on its position and system. While studying the structures of the state, most of the time one can find that there are two systems. The first system is structuring the state into a single nation [Da Pyidaung] and the second system is structuring the state into a union.

For a rough explanation, a single nation means legislative, administrative, and judiciary power are concentrated in the central body. Legislative power especially is always held by the central body. Regional institutions may hold administrative power and judiciary power and practice according to the laws prescribed by the central body.

Union means legislative, administrative, and judiciary power are shared and practiced by the union and member states in the union. In other words, it is a system where member states of the union are given a respective regional legislative power and they can practice this legislative power as it is practiced by the central body. They can also practice administrative power and judiciary power. In brief, the sovereignty of the state is shared by the union and the member states in the union.

Therefore, during the discussion on the structure of the state, the delegates must discuss thoroughly what system and position should be taken into consideration in structuring the state that would be best for us.

One of the topics that should be considered is the state's fundamental policies. Some call this topic a state's ideology and objective. Here the state's policy concerning politics, the economy, social culture, affairs of peasants and workers, rights of religious worship, land, and resources are prescribed as a general direction for the state. These are used as a general direction in legislating, administrating, and interpreting the laws.

It is also necessary to coordinate and to discuss what types of privileges and duties should be prescribed in our constitution for the citizens; what kind of guarantees should be given for the interests of peasants and workers; under what policy children, youths, and the elderly will be motivated and looked after; what will be prescribed in the constitution to lay down the situation to strengthen the objectives—nondisintegration of the union, nondisintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty; how to provide a firm policy on how to benefit from the natural resources in our country's waters, lands, forests, and mountains; and what is the country's economic system in order to make it firm and comprehensive. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss the basic policies and directions to be prescribed for our country in the constitution.

On other topics: Which institution should hold the legislative power—one of the three powers of the state—on behalf of the state? One can see that the concerns on sharing administrative power and judiciary power are separately prescribed under the topics of legislation, administration, and the judiciary.

To explain the topic of legislation, in some countries there are unicameral parliaments and these hold legislative power. But in some countries there are bicameral parliaments where one can see the practice of legislative power. In a country where the union system is practiced, one can see that legislative power is shared and empowered to members of the union. Discussions should be held on whether there should be a unicameral or bicameral parliamentary system in our country, how legislative power should be utilized, and whether the legislative authority should be delegated.

There is also the need to discuss ways of utilizing administrative power. In some countries, the head of state also acts as the administrative head, while in other countries different responsibilities are vested in the head of state and the administrative chief. For example, the head of state acts as the state president, while the prime minister acts as the administrative head with full administrative authority and heads the government. They also determine how the head of state should be appointed and by which organization, whether the head of state should be elected, and which organization should appoint the administrative chief, the prime minister, and the cabinet.

The delegates should discuss what systems will be used in our country in appointing or electing the administrative head in accordance with the situation in the country.

Regarding the judiciary system, it is essential to determine what system should be applied and what principles should be adopted in order to bring about justice in accordance with law. In the course of discussions, the delegates should bear in mind how to form the highest court. In most countries, the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the head of state with approval from the congress. The formation and appointment of the highest court in our country should also be discussed. Moreover, discussions must be held on how regional courts should be formed and how judges should be appointed. Furthermore, what powers should be vested in the highest court? For example, should the highest court be able to decide legal matters relating to the constitution or is there a need to form a separate court to handle similar matters, and if there is a need to form such courts then who should be included? Should suitable authority be given to the highest court to protect the rights of the citizens and if so, in what form and to what extent?

Now I will explain the attorney general and the auditor general. First, the attorney general is appointed to give legal advice to the state government on relations with other countries; on signing charters, international treaties, and work agreements with other countries, organizations, and persons. The attorney general is also appointed to enact new laws, to amend existing laws, to give legal advice to the government on those matters, to assist the government on criminal procedures, and to give legal guidance to work organizations acting on behalf of the government. The appointment, terms, and duties of the attorney general are stated in the constitutions. The name attorney general and the council of people's attorneys appear in the previous constitutions of Burma.

I will now explain the auditor general, who is appointed to supervise transactions of the state Treasury, to inspect effective use of government funds, and to inspect whether government departmental activities are beneficial to the public. The appointment, terms, and duties of the auditor general are stated in the constitutions. The name auditor general and the council of people's inspectors appear in the previous constitutions of Burma. The delegates should discuss the roles of the attorney general and the auditor general.

Another topic for discussion at the National Convention is regional administration. Just as the National Assembly delegates its administrative power to the cabinet, the delegation of regional administrative powers needs to be discussed. In some countries, elected organizations are delegated with regional administrative power, while in some countries regional administrative power is given to [word indistinct]. But some countries have joint regional administrative bodies with elected organizations and [word indistinct]. We must implement this to suit the changing political situation of our country. In order to bring about a true democratic system, there must be regionally suitable measures. Discussions must be held, based on past experiences, to decide the role of regional administrative bodies.

Discussions should be held on fundamental rights of citizens, equal legal rights, rights of livelihood, health rights, rest and recreation, educational and cultural rights, economic rights, and duties.

On the topic of public service, discussions should be held on employment of public service personnel, duties and rights, conduct, and regulations. In the previous constitution there is a public services commission for employment of service personnel. The formation of an organization similar to the present Public Services Selection and Training Board should be discussed.

The one important topic of discussion at this convention concerns the Defense Services. The Defense Services' leading role in national politics in the future is clearly stated among the six objectives of the convention. There is clear evidence of the leading role of the Defense Services in the struggle for independence and in national politics. The chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission broadly explained this matter in his opening speech. For the Defense Services to be involved in the leading role in future national politics, discussions should be held on how to establish firmly the official participation of the Defense Services in other sectors apart from defense and security, legislation and administration.

Concerning the electoral system, election of the legislative assembly, the administrative body or group, and other needed organizations and persons, persons eligible for election and voting should be considered. How political parties should be organized to fulfill the objective of emergence of a genuine multiparty democratic system and which facts are considered relevant to election qualifications should also be discussed.

Concerning amendment of the constitution, there should be discussions on whether it should be easy or difficult to amend the it, and which sections should be easy and which should not be easy to amend.

Dear delegates, the topics mentioned are only suggested for discussion. I would like to say that if other topics are suggested that the delegates might advocate because of their personnel experiences or studies, they can be included and unneeded topics can be removed. In discussing the basic principles to outline a strong and firm constitution, it is essential that the constitution contain all necessary contents. In order to study the contents of constitutions, the constitutions of about 150 countries have been collected. When the constitutions are studied, it can be seen that some constitutions are written in sections, with some sections divided into chapters. In other constitutions, there are no sections but only chapters and some chapters are divided into parts. If the topics that come under each of the sections or chapters are studied, it can be seen that every country has written its constitution based on the facts relating to its natural surroundings, historical background, customs, and prevailing political, economic, social, and cultural conditions. That is why the topics in the constitutions are not identical for each country. To clarify the differences in the constitutions of different countries, I will roughly present the contents of the constitutions of some neighboring countries and other nations. [passage omitted]

The 1947 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has 14 chapters with two chapters divided into parts. The 19 topics of the chapters and parts are: Form of State, Fundamental Rights, the Relationship of the State to Peasants and Workers, Directive Principles of State Policy, the President, Parliament, the Union Government, the Union Judiciary, the Shan State, the Kachin State, the Karen State, the Karenni [Kayah] State, the Chin Special Division, New States, the Right of Secession, Amendment of the Constitution, International Relations, General Provisions, and Transitory Provisions.

In the 1974 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma there are 16 chapters. They are: the State; Basic Principles; the State Structure; Pyithu Hluttaw [the People's Assembly]; the Council of State; the Council of Ministers; the Council of People's Justices; the Council of People's Attorneys; the Council of People's Inspectors; the People's Councils; Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens; the Electoral System; Recall, Resignation, and Replacement; the State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem, and State Capital; Amendment of the Constitution; and General Provisions.

Dear delegates, it can be seen that topics of constitutions not only differ from country to country, but even in the same country the topic differs from one time to another. But the contents of the constitution of every country, although the usage and names may differ, principally remains the same. The contents addressed in virtually every constitution tend to discuss the state structure, basic principles, citizens, fundamental rights and duties of citizens, the head of state, the legislature, the administration, the judiciary, the attorney general and auditor general, the electoral system, and amendment of the constitution. These topics are always included in various forms of usage and names in every constitution. In outlining these topics in detail, constitutions are mostly written in compliance with the natural surroundings of the country, its historical background, and customs and the prevailing political, economic, social, and cultural situations.

According to historical background, all Myanmar nationals descended from the same origin and are members of the same blood-related national groups. These national groups have coexisted in Myanmar in the regions of their choice. According to the statistics compiled by the Immigration and Manpower Department, Myanmar's population as of 31 March 1992 stood at more than 41.9 million. If we compile the list of national and ethnic races with a population of more than 10,000 that reside in the various states and divisions, it will be as follows:

Kachin state with a population 1.08 million people has more than 350,000 Kachins, 50,000 Lisus, 250,000 Shans, 310,000 Burmans, and 120,000 of other nationalities.

Kayah state which has 210,000 people includes 90,000 Kayahs, 20,000 Kayans, 10,000 Karens, 20,000 Shans, 30,000 Burmans, and 40,000 of other nationalities.

Karen state with a population of 12.6 million people has more than 640,000 Karens, 10,000 Kayahs, 220,000 Mons, 30,000 Shans, 70,000 Pa-Os, 170,000 Burmans, and 120,000 of other nationalities.

Chin state which has 410,000 people consists of 390,000 Chins, 10,000 Arakanese, and 10,000 of other nationalities.

Mon state with a population of 2.06 million people has more than 780,000 Mons, 260,000 Karens, 10,000 Shans, 60,000 Pa-Os, 760,000 Burmans, and 190,000 of other nationalities.

Arakan state which has 2.38 million people comprises 1.61 million Arakanese, 70,000 Chins, 10,000 Burmans, and 690,000 of other nationalities.

Shan state with a population of 4.25 million people includes 1.64 million Shans, 100,000 A-khas, 70,000 Kokangs, 220,000 Danus, 300,000 Palaungs, 170,000 Lahus, 130,000 Inthas, 450,000 Pa-Os, 90,000 Was, 100,000 Kachins, 50,000 Lisus, 40,000 Kayans, 10,000 Karens, 470,000 Burmans, and 410,000 of other nationalities.

Sagaing Division has a population of 4.65 million people including 150,000 Chins, 70,000 Nagas, 180,000 Shans, 4.19 million Burmans, and 60,000 of other nationalities.

Tenasserim Division with a population of 1.12 million people has 70,000 Karens, 20,000 Mons, 940,000 Burmans and 90,000 of other nationalities.

Pegu Division has a population of 4.41 million people which includes 210,000 Karens, 30,000 Chins, 10,000 Mons, 10,000 Arakanese, 20,000 Shans, 20,000 Pa-Os, 3.92 million Burmans, and 190,000 of other nationalities.

Magwe Division with a population of 3.88 million people has 90,000 Chins, 3.75 million Burmans, and 40,000 of other nationalities.

Mandalay Division has 5.54 million people consisting of 20,000 Lisus, 10,000 Karens, 50,000 Shans, 10,000 Palaungs, 5.27 million Burmans, and 180,000 of other nationalities.

Rangoon Division with a population of 4.79 million people has 230,000 Karens, 30,000 Mons, 50,000 Arakanese, 20,000 Shans, 4 million Burmans, and 460,000 of other nationalities.

Irrawaddy Division has 5.84 million people including 1.19 million Karens, 60,000 Arakanese, 4.43 million Burmans, and 160,000 of other nationalities.

By looking at these statistics, it can be seen that no one national group is dominant in any state or division and it is clearly seen that all national races are mingled in all states and divisions. These national groups, as they are blood related, live cordially and peacefully dependent on each other. The populace, by looking at the peaceful coexistence, will see the bond of unity among them. That is why, when discussions are held to outline the basic principles for a strong and firm constitution, it is especially important for the delegates to refrain from views, words, and actions, which will affect national unity, which the national races have gained of their own accord.

As everyone knows, the forests, mountains, rivers, and seas of Myanmar remain as a boundary created by nature. These natural boundaries are also rich in natural resources on land and in the sea, above and underground. Because our country is rich in natural resources—with plenty of cultivable land, a fair climate, rich in cultural heritage, and geographically strategic—it is the duty of all national races residing in the country to defend the beloved motherland for eternal existence and perpetual sovereignty.

Dear delegates, it is important not to forget that the main fundamental fact of the state and the citizens for the nondisintegration of the union and the nondisintegration of national solidarity is national unity. Before discussing the basic principles to outline the constitution, delegates should first have group discussions choosing the topics for discussion and present their suggestions. In presenting the suggestions, the delegates should bear in mind that it must be in accord with the six objectives and must present their papers according to the procedures explained by the secretary of the National Convention Convening Commission. For the delegates to have thorough group discussions there is no time limit. In conclusion, when the Work Committee for Convening the National Convention receives the group discussion papers of the delegates, it will do its best to coordinate the topics for discussion as suggested by the delegates.

BBC Correspondent Examines 'Surprise' Convention Adjournment

BK1201071993 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Dispatch from correspondent Larry Yaegan from "Current Affairs Program"]

[Text] Residents of Yangon [Rangoon] as well as delegates attending the National Convention were taken by surprise when it was announced that the National Convention has been adjourned only after two days in session. No work has actually been done at the convention. During the short sessions in the two days, the delegates just listened to speeches. As expected, no discussions and deliberations were allowed.

Copies of constitutions of 150 countries, including that of the U.S., Indonesia, Egypt and China, were distributed to the delegates. Although the superficial reason given for the adjournment of the convention was to enable the delegates to thoroughly study these constitutions, it was clear nevertheless that the decision to adjourn the convention was made suddenly. It is also certain that Major General Myo Nyunt, who is the chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, did not know in advance about the prospects of sudden adjournment of the convention.

In his opening address on Saturday, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt noted that the convention was being held during the cool season and went on to explain about the tradition of holding assemblies during the month of Pyatho [January]. Although the diplomats who attended the opening session were informed that they would not be allowed to attend the later sessions, the diplomats were informed in the evening on Sunday that they would be allowed to attend the morning session on Monday. Many diplomats attended the session. Delegates were told that the delegates would be sent back home in order to study each constitution article by article.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe in his address explained the points the delegates should study, examine, and consider. Speaking on the issue of distribution of power, he explained distribution of power among the executive branch, the legislature, and the judiciary. He also presented the issue on choice between a unitary state and a federal state.

The opposition has for a long time said that Myanmar [Burma] should adopt a form of federalism to solve the country's political problem concerning indigenous minorities. An observer noted that the chief justice did not speak in favor of one system over another during his speech at this morning's session.

It will not be easy to find out the reason for the adjournment of this convention. There is no doubt the military leaders have been striving to prevent any kind of genuine political discussion at the convention. The majority of the delegates were hand picked by the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] authorities. According to diplomatic sources, the delegates, especially those from states and divisions, have been briefed in advance on what to do. The top leaders of the NLD [National League for Democracy] were warned not to disrupt this convention and to press for transfer of power to the NLD. One Muslim delegate, an imam, who said he would attend the convention only if he could speak out openly, had his invitation withdrawn. It is believed that the delegates would not have any right to speak on policy matters at the convention. The SLORC appears to be concerned about possible criticism against the military government.

Leaflets distributed in Yangon [Rangoon] in the past weeks branded the convention as a sham and called for transfer of power to the NLD which won the elections and said a civilian government should be formed. The leaflets also called for immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The NLD leaders so far had acted as prescribed by the SLORC and participated in the preparation for the convention. However, there was much criticism over this matter against the party chairman, U Aung Shwe. According to sources in Yangon, 90 delegates to the convention met before Christmas and held discussions among themselves and they reached an agreement to challenge and to oppose the SLORC's demand that the military be given a permanent role in Burma's future politics. Observers believe that U Aung Shwe had no other choice but to confront and to challenge the SLORC at the convention in accordance with this agreement. If they had not acted in such a way, the NLD would be finished. It is possible that the military government may have postponed the convention because of their concern for this. They may have postponed the convention date in order to reestablish their control.

There are some in Yangon who believe that even those handpicked were not inclined to tow the line as told. It is more likely that the new constitution has already been drawn.

Official: No Plans To Release Suu Kyi

BK1201072693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Rangoon, Jan 12 (AFP)—Burma's military government does not plan to release Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, but she may leave the country any time, a senior junta member said here Tuesday.

Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Win also said Aung San Suu Kyi, 47, who has been under house arrest for three-and-a-half years, was well.

"Her health is OK," the colonel told a news conference. "Her family is allowed access (to her) at any time it chooses."

But he said it would not be "convenient" for foreign journalists, gathered in Rangoon to cover a national constitutional convention called to draft a new Burmese charter, to visit Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize.

Anyone "restricted by the law" is not allowed visits by foreign diplomats, he said.

Asked about Aung San Suu Kyi's repeated offers of a dialogue with the State Law and Order Restoration Committee (SLORC), the junta's official name, Kyaw Win said: "What is of prime importance is not the sentiments of a single individual but broader national interests."

He stressed that until the new constitution is in place and a new government installed, the SLORC thought it would not be possible to consider releasing Aung San Suu Kyi "unless she left the country."

He said that if she were released, underground elements would try to use her to create instability and anarchy and to disrupt the process of returning Burma to a multinational system.

Kyaw Win also ruled out any role for Aung San Suu Kyi in the drafting of the new charter.

Before her arrest in July 1988, Aung San Suu Kyi led the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), which won a landslide victory in parliamentary elections the following year.

Most NLD leaders subsequently were jailed or fled into hiding. Current NLD officials were invited to the constitutional assembly, but critics charge they do not represent the party rank and filed and are tame critics of the junta.

Referring to foreign condemnation of Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest, Kyaw Win asked: "Is it Aung San Suu Kyi that is so important (to these countries) or is it democracy."

The colonel said the junta had evidence that Aung San Suu Kyi had harbored communists in her home who had tried to drive a wedge into SLORC and between SLORC and the Burmese people.

She would have been tried were she not the daughter of "our beloved independence hero," Aung San, he said.

Burmese officials have declined to say how long the constitutional processs would take. Diplomats have predicted it could take years.

Official Hints at Freedom for Suu Kyi

BK1201123593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 12 Jan 93

[By Kate Webb]

[Excerpts] Rangoon, Jan 12 (AFP)—Burma's junta hinted here Tuesday for the first time that Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi could eventually be released and allowed to stay in Burma.

But a military official warned that the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC)—the junta's official name—would only consider freeing Aung San Suu Kyi after forming a new constitution and a new government, an exercise officials say privately could take three years or more.

"It is a matter of timing, time and conditions," deputy intelligence chief Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Win told a press conference.

The SLORC slapped Aung San Suu Kyi, 47, under house arrest 10 months before her National League for Democracy (NLD) swept more than 80 percent of the seats in national elections in 1990.

She has been incommunicado in a heavily guarded family house since then and only allowed visits by her British husband Michael Aris and their two sons.

"We do not want anything (to happen) that might disturb law and order during the writing of the constitution and the transfer of power," said Kyaw Win, a member of the Defence section of the SLORC Information Committee.

"Once a new government is formed, the situation regarding her release will be changed," he said, adding that it would depend on the future government and the conditions.

"She is not (being) restricted now because she might incite people, but (because) there are some people out there who might manipulate her to incite instability ... we have no other reason to be afraid (of releasing her)". [passage omitted]

Junta officials have in the past said Aung San Suu Kyi could only be released if she agreed to immediately leave the country.

Observers here say they have not before hinted at any possibility of eventual release without her leaving. [passage omitted]

"Is it Aung San Suu Kyi that is so important, or is it democracy ... the interests of the people?" retorted Colonel Ye Htut, of SLORC's Historical Research Department.

"Which are these foreign countries enamoured with—democracy or a lone individual. When you talk of foreign aid it is a mere pittance. For 30 years we have survived without it. We feel that the broader national interest is more important."

The officials said SLORC had enough evidence to try Aung San Suu Kyi on charges of harbouring communists "who used her house for their nefarious activities."

"But we have been very lenient because she is the daughter of our beloved independence hero," Ye Htut said.

Suu Kyi is the daughter of assassinated Burmese independence hero Aung San.

The "subversives" using her house, Ye Htut said, were driving a wedge "into the Army itself and between the Army and the people."

"One thing has to be made clear, she is not an elected member of parliament, she has not represented any party in the elections," another official added. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Government To Sign Chemical Weapon Convention

BK1201071693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0602 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia's Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan will sign for Malaysia the International Convention banning chemical weapons in Paris this week.

The "convention on the prohibition of the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction" will be opened for signature over three days beginning Wednesday.

Otherwise known as "the chemical weapons convention (CWC)", it requires signatory countries to adhere to the provisions banning the production and use of chemical weapons, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

"Malaysia's decision to be among the original signatories is a reaffirmation to the goal of general and complete disarmament and its support for the role of the United Nations in multilateral disarmament efforts," it said.

A comprehensive chemical weapons ban would hopefully help promote international confidence and contribute to world peace and security, it added.

A signatory to the convention will undertake not to "develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, or transfer, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons to anyone".

Signatory states possessing chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities are required to destroy them.

After January 15, the CWC will be deposited with the UN secretary-general in New York and open for further signatures.

Mahathir on Role of Major Powers in Bosnia

BK1101072593 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 11 jan 93

[Text] Answering questions by newsmen Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia has lost confidence in the ability of the major powers to protect human rights. This is evident from their failure in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He was commenting on the murder of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic by Serb Forces in Sarajevo.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the major powers only talk about protecting human rights, but were only willing to do it at minimal cost. They are willing to intervene in Iraq, Nicaragua, and Panama, but unwilling to face Serb Forces in Bosnia as one or two of their numbers could get killed. Despite the fact that 50,000 women have been raped and there has been blatant violation of human rights, the UN remains powerless to do anything.

Asked about the refusal of the Bosnian delegation to continue the peace talks in Geneva, the prime minister said he would do the same if [he] was a Bosnian leader. The talks were just rhetoric and nothing concrete is being done. He also said that Malaysia is willing to send its forces to Bosnia if the UN agrees to send the UN force. Malaysia will not commit its forces to any country where they would be butchered.

Meanwhile Malaysia has condemned the assasination of the Bosnia-Hercegovina's deputy prime minister, Hakija Turajlic recently. The foreign minister, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it was a cruel and cowardly act on the part of the Serbs. The action can also be seen as a negative move to make the peace conference in Geneva a failure. He said they are also determined to completely destroy Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said this when replying to newsmen after launching a book entitled: "Professional Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Management—the Malaysian Experience", in Kuala Lumpur today. The book was written by Ambassador (Dr. G.K. Alfred) Kumaraciri.

Editorial Hails Efforts To Curtail Inflation

BK0801144593 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jan 93 p 12

[Editorial: "Bonded to The Future"]

[Text] The introduction of the Malaysia Savings Bond (MSB) may not by itself effectively put the lid on inflation but seen in the context of several other monetary measures in force in the past year, it is expected that it will have an impactful influence on the savings market. This savings scheme, together with the forced savings by way of the one per cent increase in employee contributions to the EPF [Employee Provident Fund], will hopefully be able to shore up domestic savings to cater to the increased requirement for domestic sources of funds for investments, to take the pressure off the money market and curtail a feared inflation spiral.

At the same time, the MSB, open only to Malaysian citizens and charitable organisations, will provide an opportunity for the common man to invest wisely and safely.

Inflation has been hovering in the four to five percentage range ending the year around 4.7 per cent, quite a remarkable achievement considering that Malaysia's per capita income has increased from [Malaysian ringgit] (M)$6,224 in 1990 to (M)$6,796 in 1991 and the unemployment rate is down to an impressively tolerable four percent. Private consumption is down, but so is the national savings rate which has fallen from 33.6 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP) in 1987 to about 31 per cent in 1992, lower than the targeted 36 per cent to be achieved by the end of the Sixth Malaysia Plan. Added to this is falling fixed deposit rates, and the expectation in the banking circles is that they will fall further.

All these add up to the fact that there are lots of surplus funds in the market, despite the various measures taken by the government to mop up excess liquidity in the banking system and to tighten interest rates. The excess fund is estimated at around eight to ten billion ringgit.

The continued inflow of foreign funds, which is encouraged by the high domestic interest rates, would continue to increase liquidity in the banking system. Politicians, consumer bodies and economists may exhort Malaysians to save, but when there is money in the pocket, times are good and daily advertisements assault the consumer's senses and exalt the goodness of Brand X, it takes a great deal of determination not to do so. The country's continued prosperity has evolved a spending society and a credit-dependent society where credit card companies have recorded triple digit growths and where there are one million people holding credit cards.

To some measure, the stringent monetary policy has tightened the conditions for consumer credit and dampened excess demand, especially for private consumption. For instance, car sales dropped by four per cent during the first half of 1992 while bank loans for consumption declined to 19 percent compared with 35 percent a year ago. Still, the worry is over indiscriminate consumer spending.

The MSB's expected total return rate of 48 per cent if kept until maturity works out to a compounded rate of 9.6 per cent per annum, a competitive rate comparable, if not better than any other form of savings. The people in the rural areas should find this scheme particularly attractive because it enables a long-term savings plan without the hassle of having to journey to the bank updating records, and having to pay tax on the savings.

The Malaysian economy is expected to continue to be strong this year, but Malaysians cannot isolate themselves from the recession gripping other countries. As such, it would be judicious to spend prudently and save wisely.

Singapore

Visiting SRV Finance Minister on Investment

BK1101105793 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Jan 93 p 14

[By Kevin Lim]

[Text] Vietnam is setting up a new government body to expedite investments comprising officials from its finance and trade ministries, and representatives of Vietnamese banks.

The body will manage its proposed export processing zones (EPZ) and act as a one-stop agency which foreign investors can liaise with, said Vietnam's Finance Minister, Mr. Ho Te, in Singapore yesterday.

He said that Vietnam was at the moment formulating the legislation for such a body.

Mr. Ho arrived here last night for a five-day official visit at the invitation of Singapore's Finance Minister, Dr. Richard Hu.

He was received on arrival by Minister of State (Finance), Commodore (Res) Teo Chee Hean.

In an interview with THE STRAITS TIMES later in the evening, Mr. Ho, speaking through an interpretor, said Vietnam has just started an "experimental" EPZ at Tan Thuan near Ho Chih Minh City covering 300 hectares.

Two other sites, at Linh Tiung in Central Vietnam and at Hai Phong province, have also been earmarked for EPZs in the near future.

Vietnam wanted to concentrate all export industries in EPZs, in which companies will be exempt from export or import duties, he said.

Turning to the US' partial lifting of its trade embargo on Vietnam, Mr. Ho said that at least 15 American companies, some acting through foreign intermediaries, had applied for permission to set up offices in his country.

He said that the actual number could be higher. The applications are handled by the country's Trade Ministry.

Mr. Ho also revealed that a Singapore law firm, Chor Pee & Company, had applied for a licence to operate in Vietnam which he expected would be approved shortly. He said that Chor Pee had indicated its interest in acting as a "legal bridge" between Vietnam and Singapore-based businesses.

The Vietnamese minister will call on Dr Hu for discussions today and meet officials from government agencies including the Ministry of Finance, the Economic Development Board, and the Monetary Authority of Singapore for briefings.

Mr. Ho, who is accompanied by Mr. Do Dinh Mien, general director of the external financial and foreign currency management department; Mr. Pham Sy Danh, vice-director of the Finance Ministry, and Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Tuyen from the state general department of taxation will discuss the implications of Vietnam's new foreign investment laws with local businessmen at a seminar here on Wednesday.

Entitled "Vietnam as the Next Economic Frontier", the seminar is organised by Chor Pee, Coopers & Lybrand, and Pidemco Land Pte Ltd [Private Limited].

Two-way trade between Singapore and Vietnam hit S$1.5 billion in 1991.

The two countries have signed various economic agreements in the past year including a trade pact giving each other most favoured nation status in September and an investment guarantee agreement in October.

Illegal Immigrant Smuggling Case Investigated

BK1201105993 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jan 93 p 3

[By David Miller]

[Text] Police are treating the case of a ship which was found attempting to smuggle illegal immigrants, mainly Chinese nationals, to the US as an immigration offence.

Mr. Khoo Boon Hui, the director of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), said no arrests have been made yet.

"Our investigations are still going on," he said. "We are treating the case as an immigration offence."

The Attorney-General's Chambers is being consulted on what charges, if any, will be made against those responsible, he added.

Sources said all nine crew of the cargo ship Solas have been interviewed by CID officers who are also taking statements from the 129 "passengers" found on the ship.

All 138 people, including the crew members, were still on board the vessel yesterday.

Reporters' requests to interview some of the "illegals" or crew members were denied as the authorities are continuing investigations which are expected to last several days.

The Chinese Embassy yesterday said they were in contact with the Singapore authorities and are trying to resolve the matter.

Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng, speaking to THE STRAITS TIMES after a constituency function last night, said that the Government had contacted the Chinese Embassy here, which said that it would take up the matter with Beijing.

Apart from the immigration charge, another possible offence the police are looking into, is the illegal possession of weapons. One unusable home-made pistol, eight bullets and two flick knives were found on the vessel.

Authorities here said a dispute on board prompted a distress message to be sent out, alerting authorities in both Singapore and Malaysia.

The ship's "cargo" was found to be 128 mainland Chinese nationals including 13 women, and a Hongkonger.

Initial investigations showed they had promised to pay up to US$30,000 (S$49,500) each to be smuggled to the United States.

Police found that the hold had been crudely retrofitted to carry passengers in makeshift bunks.

The 499-tonne vessel anchored just off the Bedok Jetty on Saturday night was surrounded by police patrol boats to prevent the ship from leaving or those aboard from landing.

Cambodia

Request To Oust Provincial Governor Rejected

BK1201061093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0526 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Jan 12 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government said Tuesday that the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) wanted to remove the governor of northwest Battambang Province, but that senior officials refused to accept the request.

"Up to now we have no proof of guilt," senior government advisor and deputy minister Khieu Kanharith said at a press conference.

"If UNTAC insists to remove him, they have to remove the prime minister first and the (Phnom Penh government) won't operate anymore," he said.

The governor, Ung Sami, the nephew of government strongman Chea Sim, has been in his post for four to five years, he said.

Admitting that the governor "is not competent in civilian affairs," Kanharith said Ung Sami was appointed because he is capable of dealing with the Khmer Rouge in the militarily tense province.

UNTAC officials have said Phnom Penh authorities in Battambang were involved in political intimidation and assassinations of their political opponents, notably of the pro-monarchist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party.

Emboldened by UNTAC's inaction thus far, they have become increasingly arrogant and brutal, the officials said.

UNTAC is seeking the removal of Ung Sami because he is the highest official in the province. FUNCINPEC head Prince Norodom Ranariddh—whose party claims 20 workers killed since November—told AFP that the governor is directly involved in intimidation.

"As long as we have no evidence that that he is behind all those crimes, we cannot remove him. To do so would be an act of injustice toward him," said Chan Prasith, another senior government advisor at the press conference.

If UNTAC can come up with concrete proof, they said, the Phnom Penh government will quickly take action against any of their officials who violate the peace accords ending Cambodia's civil war.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi returned from talks with Ranariddh's father Prince Norodom Sihanouk on Monday saying he might soon start removing Phnom Penh officials who are implicated in the political violence.

Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, had threatened to stop cooperating with UNTAC and the Phnom Penh government because of the attacks.

Kanharith said Cambodian officials do not have to be responsible for security in their areas or the actions of their subordinates, as in other countries, because Cambodia is in a unique war situation and is coping with the return of thousands of refugees from camps along the Thai border.

A Phnom Penh general, Phan Thay, meanwhile said government forces had taken Khmer Rouge territory in Bavel district on the western side of the Monkol Borei River.

The taking of at least two villages is justified because "the Khmer Rouge put in weapons there to shell our positions at Bavel, so we have to make an offensive against the heavy weapons positions on that side," he said.

"We expect they will launch an attack again" to retake the areas, Phan Thay said.

The government also appealed for food aid due to Cambodia's light rainy season, which produced lower crop yields than normal.

The government had a shortfall of 257,000 tons of rice, the officials said.

"There is a serious drought in certain parts of Cambodia," Chan Prasith said.

In several areas of the northwest, rice about to be harvested had not yet completely ripened due to lack of water, he said.

He said the government was also trying to cope with a large amount of rice illegally exported to Thailand and Vietnam, where farmers get higher prices.

"We can only (control) it in areas we are controlling," he said.

First Suspect in Political Violence Arrested

BK1201080093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Jan 12 (AFP)—U.N. peacekeepers in Cambodia have used their new powers of arrest for the first time, apprehending a suspect who was destroying an opposition party office with a hatchet, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

The man, a member of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) who was not identified, was apprehended after opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] workers in eastern Prey Veng Province told peacekeeers Monday that five men were destroying their office and documents with hatchets, spokesman Eric Falt said.

The other four got away, but the one suspect was placed by U.N. peacekeepers under custody of the Phnom Penh government police, he said.

"We'll make sure further investigation and prosecution will ensue," Falt said.

The man was to be charged with a crime within 48 hours, he said.

The peacekeepers were granted the power of arrest last week after parties in opposition to the Phnom Penh government's CPP complained that the United Nations was not stopping assassinations and bombing attacks against them.

The Phnom Penh government has denied that any of its officials are involved in the killings, blaming instead "infiltrators" from the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group.

FUNCINPEC was not the only party singled out for attack, Falt said.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by General Sak Sutsakhan, formerly of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) was attacked in eastern Kompong Cham Province on Sunday.

Two unidentified people on a motorbike threw a hand grenade into the LDP's office in Srey Santor district, 50 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of Phnom Penh, Falt said.

A security guard was seriously injured, and his two sons suffered minor injuries. They were evacuated by UNTAC to the U.N. hospital in Phnom Penh, he said.

In addition, LDP workers in the southern city of Kompong Speu have complained to UNTAC that they were being harassed by Phnom Penh government officials.

In the central province of Siem Reap, an LDP sign board was destroyed by unidentified people, Falt said.

U.N. Helicopter Crashes Into Sea; Crew Unhurt

BK1201080493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Jan 12 (AFP)—A U.N. helicopter crashed into the ocean after rapidly losing altitude off the coast of Sihanoukville, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

The helicopter, a Russian-made Mi-17 piloted by a Russian crew of two, fell 300 meters (930 feet) into the sea 100 meters (yards) out from the Sihanoukville beach, spokesman Eric Falt said.

Four French military passengers and the crew escaped without injury, Falt said.

Some swam to shore and others were rescued by the navy, he said.

"The cause is presently unknown, but I can confirm it is not the result of hostile action," Falt said.

The helicopter, carrying food supplies, had just refueled a short distance from the crash site and was coming in for a landing at the beach heli-pad, he said.

The helicopter had rolled over in the water and was resting in five meters (16 feet) of water off the coast.

A larger Mi-26 was attempting to lift out the helicopter for repairs, he said.

A number of U.N. helicopters have been fired at over the interior of Cambodia during missions.

Thai Princess Arrives for Official Visit

BK1201072393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Jan 93

["Latest news"]

[Text] At 0900 on 12 January, Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon, third child of the Thai Kingdom's king, arrived in Phnom Penh to pay an official visit to Cambodia.

Upon arriving at Pochentong airport, Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon was warmly welcomed by the royal consort and from their excellencies high-ranking leaders of the State of Cambodia [SOC], chiefly His Excellency [H.E.] Kong Samol, standing member of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and deputy prime minister; H.E. Sim Ka, standing member of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Phnom Penh municipal party committee and people's committee; H.E. Im Chhunlim, member of the CPP Central committee, education minister, and member of Cambodian Supreme National Council; ministers; deputy ministers; directors general and deputy directors general; leading cadres of units, ministries, and various establishments in Phnom Penh; and a multitude of people and ethnic groups in Phnom Penh.

H.E. Yasushi Akashi, UNTAC chief; H.E. ambassador of the Thai Kingdom accredited to Cambodia; their excellencies ambassadors and diplomatic envoys; representatives of various countries' diplomatic missions accredited to the SOC; high-ranking UNTAC officials; and representatives of various international organizations working in Cambodia, were also present to welcome the princess.

Cuban Leader Castro Congratulates Officials

BK1101085193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Council of State; and H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers, recently received a congratulatory message from H.E. Fidel Castro, chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. The message says in essence:

On the 14th anniversary of the Cambodian people's victory day, I am happy to convey to the Cambodian Government and people warmest congratulations on behalf of the Cuban people and government. We have noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Paris agreement and hope that the peace process in Cambodia will continue until full national reconciliation and peace are achieved.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the pledge to continue expanding the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and wish you great success in your highly responsible tasks and happiness for yourselves. With my high consideration.

Indonesia

Suharto Hopes Miyazawa Visit Will Deepen Ties

OW1101125993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Jakarta, Jan. 11 KYODO—Indonesian President Suharto said Monday that Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit will help strengthen bilateral ties and increase mutual understanding.

Suharto made the statement as he received Miyazawa briefly at the Merdeka (Independence) Palace in Jakarta following a 20-minute welcome ceremony, Japanese officials said.

Miyazawa flew into the Indonesian capital earlier in the day on the first leg of an eight-day visit to four Southeast Asian Nations which will also take him to Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei.

Suharto was also quoted as saying he hopes to show Miyazawa the outcome of the 25 years of Indonesia's development during his leadership.

He said the country's development has resulted largely from assistance by friendly nations, including Japan, the biggest aid donor, investor and trading partner for Indonesia.

Suharto asked Miyazawa to confirm these developments with his own eyes and tell the Japanese people how effectively Indonesia has used Japanese aid, the officials said.

Miyazawa praised Suharto for his leadership as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement in hammering out a constructive dialogue between rich and poor countries, they said.

He also lauded Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who was also present at the meeting, for his role as co-chairman of an international conference for peace in Cambodia.

Suharto and Miyazawa are scheduled to meet for two hours on Tuesday for an official summit at the Merdeka Palace.

Aboard the plane carrying him and his 54-member entourage from Tokyo to Jakarta, Miyazawa told a Japanese press corps he hopes to make the visit "a journey of dialogue" with regional leaders to jointly consider "what should be done for the stability and development of the Asia-Pacific region on the basis of friendly relations between Japan and ASEAN," officials said.

ASEAN, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, groups the four countries Miyazawa is visiting—Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei—plus the Philippines and Singapore.

Miyazawa said the ASEAN region "is politically stable and achieving remarkable economic growth, becoming the brightest spot in the world," the officials said.

He hopes to use the trip to stress the importance Japan attaches to ASEAN in its diplomacy, they added.

During the tour, Miyazawa is expected to test Tokyo's bid for a bigger political role and propose new ideas on cooperation between Japan and the ASEAN nations, including a framework for regional security dialogue and a program to help build a regional infrastructure such as cross-border transportation networks.

Later Monday, Miyazawa will attend a dinner hosted in his honor by Suharto at the State Palace adjacent to the Merdeka Palace.

At his formal talks with Miyazawa on Tuesday, Suharto is expected to renew his call for Indonesia, as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, to be allowed to attend a Tokyo summit in July of seven economic powers, a request he made during a Tokyo meeting with Miyazawa last September.

Miyazawa will fly to Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday before proceeding to Thailand and Brunei. He will return home on January 18.

Commenting on Miyazawa's visit, the English daily JAKARTA POST said in its Monday editions Japan must offer "stronger assurances" that it will not sacrifice the interests of other countries in pursuing a greater international role.

"In the past, we have had doubts about Japan's intentions," the paper said in an editorial. "Many of us even had difficulty fathoming what was really in Japan's mind."

The recent secrecy-shrouded plutonium shipment from France raised "major doubts" in many Asian and other countries, the editorial said.

"The most disturbing question raised was—how far would Japan go in sacrificing the interests of other countries for the sake of ensuring its own?" It said.

"That Japan should play a greater international role needs no mention. What we need, however, is stronger assurances, backed by action," he said.

Suharto Hosts Banquet for Miyazawa 11 Jan

BK1101154393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] President Suharto hosted an official banquet in honor of visiting Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at Jakarta's State Palace this evening. In his speech, President Suharto said he highly appreciated Japan's role in supporting Indonesia's development programs. According to the president, Japan pursues the policy of strengthening the economy of countries which have received its assistance while Indonesia adopts a policy which depends on its own strength for its economic development and considers foreign aid as a complementary factor.

Meanwhile, in his speech, the Japanese prime minister said he attached great importance to the successes achieved by Indonesia, one of Japan's important partners. He added that Japan would continue to extend its positive contribution to Indonesia's development programs.

The official banquet was marked by an exchange of souvenirs between the two countries' leaders. President Suharto presented a kris to Prime Minister Miyazawa and a marble bowl for Mrs. Miyazawa.

Suharto, Miyazawa Speak

OW1101153493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1521 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Jakarta, Jan. 11 KYODO—Indonesia urged Japan on Monday to play a positive role in persuading other rich nations to spur dialogue between the industrialized North and the impoverished South.

President Suharto made the appeal during a dinner speech welcoming Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at the state palace in Jakarta.

Suharto blamed industrial countries for their failure to meet their pledged goal of providing 0.7 percent of gross national product (GNP) as official aid.

This and other developments show it is necessary "to reactivate a constructive North-South dialogue on the basis of mutual needs and responsibilities," he said.

Recent international meetings such as the earth summit last June have heightened the need for international cooperation in sustainable development, thus reminding the world of the need for political will, Suharto said.

"Indonesia believes that Japan can play an active role in urging other developed countries to show their political will to restart North-South dialogue," he said, apparently having in mind the upcoming Tokyo summit of seven economic powers in July.

As chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Indonesia is set to take the initiative for such dialogue, he added.

In a reciprocal speech, Miyazawa praised Suharto for launching "an approach of constructive dialogue" between North and South during a non-aligned summit he hosted last September.

The summit attained a "realistic result" because Indonesia has proved through the past 25 years of its own achievements that "what is most important for developing countries is raising public welfare through solid and steady development efforts rather than seemingly glamorous ideological slogans and rhetoric," he said.

Miyazawa offered to build "a new partnership" with Indonesia in order to share the contribution to the development of poorer countries.

He wished to "deepen our dialogue, and think and act together from long-term and global perspectives" so that Asia will be a region which can support world peace and prosperity in the next century.

As part of that partnership, Miyazawa will pledge Japanese financial and technical assistance to help Indonesia aid poorer nations during his meeting with Suharto on Tuesday, Japanese officials said.

Miyazawa arrived in Jakarta earlier in the day on the first leg of an eight-day visit to four Southeast Asian countries which will also take him to Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei.

The four countries he is visiting are all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which also includes The Philippines and Singapore.

The dinner followed a welcome ceremony and a brief courtesy meeting at the Merdeka (independence) Palace adjacent to the state palace.

Suharto told Miyazawa at the meeting the three-day visit will help strengthen already close bilateral ties and boost mutual understanding.

Japan is Indonesia's top aid donor, investor and trading partner while Indonesia is the third-biggest supplier of crude oil to Japan.

A senior Indonesian Government official said that at his meeting with Miyazawa on Tuesday, Suharto will refer to the recent secrecy-shrouded Japanese shipment of plutonium from France and to Jakarta's call for a lower import duty on Indonesian plywood.

Meanwhile, the leading Indonesian daily KOMPAS quoted Miyazawa on Monday as saying in a written reply to its questions that main topics during his tour will include cooperation with ASEAN in rehabilitating Indochina after completion of Cambodia's peace process, helping stabilize the Korean peninsula, and supporting China's economic reform program.

The English daily JAKARTA POST said in its Monday editions Japan must offer "stronger assurances" that it will not sacrifice the interests of other countries in pursuing a greater international role.

The controversial plutonium shipment raised "major doubts" about Japan's real intentions in many Asian and other countries, the editorial said.

"The most disturbing question raised was—how far would Japan go in sacrificing the interests of other countries for the sake of ensuring its own?" It said.

"That Japan should play a greater international role needs no mention. What we need, however, is stronger assurances, backed by action."

Miyazawa To Promote Cooperation With SE Asia

OW1101233493 Tokyo KYODO in English 2312 GMT 11 Jan 93

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Jakarta, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will tell Indonesian President Suharto on Tuesday [12 January] that Japan will promote closer economic cooperation with Southeast Asia and play a bigger political role, Japanese officials said.

The two-hour meeting is scheduled to take place at the 200-year-old Merdeka (independence) Palace in Jakarta on the second day of Miyazawa's visit to Indonesia, the first destination on his eight-day tour of four countries in the region.

More specifically, Miyazawa will offer financial and technical assistance to help Indonesia aid poorer nations, the officials said.

The offer echoes Indonesia's call as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement for stepped-up cooperation among developing countries, they said.

Miyazawa will also assure Suharto that dialogue between the rich North and the poor South will be brought up as a key topic at a summit of the world's seven major economic powers Japan is to host in July.

During a dinner he hosted in honor of Miyazawa on Monday, Suharto urged Japan to take the lead in spurring North-South dialogue.

The officials said Miyazawa will seek his host's understanding about Japan's bid for a more assertive political and security role commensurate with its economic clout rather than only as a silent aid donor.

The two leaders are also expected to confirm continued support for United Nations efforts to bring about peace in Cambodia through the Supreme National Council, which is headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and represents all four feuding parties.

Indonesia and France cochair an international peace conference for strife-torn Cambodia, where the peace process is in jeopardy due to the Khmer Rouge faction's refusal to disarm its powerful army.

Suharto, on the other hand, will take up discussion of Japan's recent shipment of plutonium from France and renew its demand for a tariff cut on Indonesian plywood, a senior Indonesian official said.

After the meeting, Miyazawa will lay a wreath at the national heroes cemetery in Kalibata, southern Jakarta.

The cemetery was built in 1954 to honor some 4,200 people such as politicians, servicemen and civilians who made distinguished contributions to the country, including 16 Japanese who fought for Indonesia's independence.

He will later have a first-hand look at a Japanese-financed project to expand and modernize a railway network in the greater Jakarta metropolitan area.

Suharto urged Miyazawa on Monday to observe the project and other results of Indonesia's development during the past 25 years of his rule. Indonesia's development has been assisted largely by Japan, which is the country's biggest aid donor, investor and trading partner.

Miyazawa will fly to Malaysia on Wednesday before proceeding to Thailand and Brunei. He will return home January 18.

Suharto, Miyazawa Discuss International Issues

BK1201113993 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1039 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 12 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) for the 1992-95 period, here Tuesday confirmed reports that the 31-year old movement wished to hold dialogues with seven industrialized countries grouped in the G-7.

When meeting Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa the president said that he would be glad to hold any kind of dialogue with leaders of the G-7 during their summit in Tokyo mid this year, Minister/State Secretary Murdiono told the press.

According to Murdiono, the president would also like to convey results of the 10th NAM summit here last September to the G-7 leaders including the Jakarta Message.

He further said that Miyazawa promised to raise the issue with other members of the G-7, the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Britain and Italy.

Miyazawa further said that Japan would continue trying to solve developing nations' problems by discussing them in the G-7 summit.

Murdiono said that the Suharto-Miyazawa Tuesday meeting also resulted in Tokyo's pledge to provide aid of 2.5 million US dollars to finance a trilateral cooperation program involving two developing and one developed nation.

Such a program was first initiated by Indonesia in the 10th NAM summit.

Through the trilateral program, Indonesia with its widely known expertise in farming and family planning programs, for example, is willing to share its knowledge with some African countries.

But since both sides only have limited funds, a financial supporter, preferably a developed nation, will be needed.

President said that the Nonaligned Movement wanted to revive the North-South dialogue, Murdiono quoted the president as saying.

Miyazawa said that his side hailed the steps taken by the developing states which do not adopt confrontative attitude towards the industrialised nations but partnership.

The minister said that the two leaders agreed that even though the cold war has ended, there are still constraints left by the past era.

Both heads of state also discussed bilateral relations which have been going on well so far. [sentence as received] The president explained that even though development has produced positive results, there are still obstacles such as the lack of infrastructural facilities.

In response to the president's explanations on the development in Indonesia, Miyazawa said that his side will send a team to Jakarta to study the problems being faced by Indonesia and the role that could be played by Japan in the Indonesian development.

Murdiono said in their parley the two leaders also discussed the dialogue currently taking place between Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the United Nations concerning East Timor which has joined Indonesia after being colonized for hundreds of years by Portugal.

Prime Minister Miyazawa appreciates the way Indonesia had handled the November 12, 1991, incident in Dili, he reported Miyazawa as saying.

Generally, on bilateral relations, the two leaders shared the view that the relations would have deeper significance if the two countries have mutual understanding about each other's national values.

In the two-hour discussions, Miyazawa asked Indonesia to give support for the extension of the term of a Japanese judge whose term in the international court would expire.

After the talks, Miyazawa will ride on an electric train from the Gambir station to the Kota station, both in Jakarta. The railway had been constructed with financial assistance from Japan.

MP: Japan To Preserve Interests in SE Asia

BK1201075893 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0713 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 12 (OANA/ANTARA)—Japan is wishing to keep its interests in Southeast Asia including on the use of territorial waters for plutonium transport in the future, a legislator has said.

The deputy chairman of the house's foreign affairs commission, Aminullah Ibrahim, made the remarks here Monday when commenting on the ongoing visit by Japanesse Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to Indonesia.

The legislator of the armed forces faction said the Japanese leader might discuss the issue of plutonium shipment which according to schedule would be conducted about sixty times.

Indonesia, however, still hopes that plutonium can be shipped through the international waters, he said.

Asked about the current Japanese stand on the presence of the United States in Asia and the Pacific, Aminullah said, that it was something natural because Japan already enjoyed an assurance by the American presence in the region.

According to him, Indonesia on the other hand, should continue fighting for the concept of zone of peace, freedom and neutrality (ZOPFAN) to create stability in the region.

The concept, initiated by Indonesia, has been widely regarded as the ASEAN concept for regional peace and security.

It is also important to continue monitoring the situation in Asia and the Pacific, he added.

Aminullah said Miyazawa's visit to ASEAN was an effort to make closer ties in the economic field with the six ASEAN countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) .

Miyazawa's visit was the first by a Japanesse leader to the ASEAN region after former prime minister Toshiki Kaifu toured Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines in April 1991.

Currently Miyazawa is in Indonesia for a three-day visit. He is scheduled to also tour Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam later.

Paper Urges Expanded Cooperation With Japan

BK1201090793 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 12 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] KOMPAS newspaper has expressed hope that the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation between Japan and Indonesia. It is hoped that Japanese investment in Indonesia will not be lured away by China's open-door policy. Apart from that, Indonesia hopes that Japanese aid under the governmental aid program will help maintain continuous bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

It is common knowledge that Japan is very strict in protecting its market and manufactured products. According to KOMPAS, this attitude will have a negative impact on manufactured goods from foreign countries, such as Indonesia's plywood, trying to enter the Chinese market.

Laos

Thai Foreign Minister To Visit 13-14 Jan

BK1201012293 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Jan 93

[11 January "announcement" released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic]

[Text] In response to the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Phoun Sipaseut, LPDR deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, will pay an official friendship visit to the LPDR from 13 to 14 January.

President Receives Greetings From DPRK

BK0901092893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] President Nouhak Phoumsavan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] has received new year greetings from Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The greeting card was presented to the Lao president by Chang Yong-chun, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to Laos at the Presidential Palace on the evening of 8 January.

On the occasion, President Nouhak Phoumsavan conveyed his thanks through the Korean envoy to President Kim Il-song for extending regards and best wishes to him and the multiethnic Lao people. The Lao president wished that the close solidarity and traditional relations of friendship between the two parties, governments, and peoples of Laos and the DPRK would flourish ever more.

Defense Minister Thanks Cuban Counterpart

BK1201083393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] On 10 January, Comrade Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, Lao minister of national defense, sent a telegram to Comrade General Raul Castro Ruz, Cuban minister of revolutionary Armed Forces. The full content of the message is as follows:

On behalf of the leadership of the Ministry of National Defense, all cadres and combatants throughout the Lao People's Army [LPA], and in my own name, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, Comrade Revolutionary Armed Forces Minister, for extending your best wishes to me, the leadership of the Ministry of National Defense, and all cadres and combatants throughout the LPA, on the occasion of the 17th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the 44th founding anniversary of the LPA.

On the occasion of the International New Year's Day 1993 and the 34th anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Cuba—1 January 1993—I wish Comrade Minister, the leadership of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry, members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, and all courageous Cuban cadres and combatants, the attainment of new and greater victories in all activities.

We, the Lao people and the LPA, are pleased, confident, and proud to have courageous friends—the fraternal Cuban people and members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces—under the leadership of respected and beloved clever and clear-sighted Comrade Fidel Castro. The Cuban people have made heroic deeds in struggling to protect the fruits of socialist revolution; building and making gradual improvement of socialism in the Republic of Cuba, as well as in Latin America; and actively and continuously contributing to processes of peace and security in the continent of America and the world.

I hope that the solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two peoples and armies of Laos and Cuba improves and expands forever. May you, Comrade Minister, have good health and happiness and achieve new successes and victories in all your noble and glorious tasks in the new year.

With high respect.

[Signed] Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense of the LPDR.

Chinese Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK1101095293 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] In response to the invitation of Comrade Maichantan Sengmani, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau and head of the Party-State Inspection and Control Board of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], the delegation of the Central Discipline Inspection Commission [CDIC] of the Communist Party of China [CPC] led by Comrade Wang Deying, deputy secretary of the CDIC of the CPC Central Committee, arrived in Vientiane on the afternoon of 9 January.

The visit to the LPDR by the Chinese delegation is aimed at exchanging lessons and experiences in carrying out party-state inspection activities between the two countries, Laos and China.

Upon arrival, the delegation was received by Dr. Davon Vongsak, alternate member of the LPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Central Party-State Inspection and Control Board, and members of the board, as well as a group of high-ranking officials concerned. Huang Guocai, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to Laos, was also on hand on the same occasion.

The scheduled visit to Laos by the Chinese delegation will last until 17 January.

New Passports To Be Issued in 1993

BK1001124793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] With reference to News Release No. 241/KSNY dated 12 November 1992, the Foreign Ministry would like to inform all Lao state employees and people that beginning 2 January 1993 the ministry will issue new diplomatic and ordinary passports with a new national emblem as defined in the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for state employees and people to replace their old ones.

The general features of the new passports are as follows:

A diplomatic passport comes with hard front and back covers in deep red with a new national emblem on the front cover. It is 88 mm-wide and 125 mm-long and contains 36 pages. Each page has printed on it a picture of the That Louang Pagoda over the map of Laos. The lower part of the passport is dot-punched into a letter and six digits. A photo of the passport-holder is affixed to the third page, covered with a sheet of clear plastic paper. A diplomatic passport is valid for five years from the date of issue. It can be renewed two times, each time with a five-year period of validity. This means that each diplomatic passport can be used for 15 consecutive years.

An official passport comes with hard front and back covers in green with a new national emblem on the front cover. It is 88 mm-wide and 125 mm-long and contains 36 pages. Each page has printed on it a picture of the That Louang Pagoda over the map of Laos. The lower part of the passport is dot-punched into a letter and six digits. A photo of the passport-holder is affixed to the third page, covered with a sheet of clear plastic paper. An official passport is valid for four years from the date of issue. It can be renewed two times, each time with a four-year period of validity. This means that each official passport can be used for 12 consecutive years.

An ordinary passport comes with hard front and back covers in light blue with a new national emblem on the front cover. It is 88 mm-wide and 125 mm-long and contains 32 pages. Each page has printed on it a picture of the That Louang Pagoda over the map of Laos. The lower part of the passport is dot-punched into a letter and six digits. To the second page is affixed a photo of the passport-holder, covered with a sheet of clear plastic paper. An ordinary passport is valid for three years from the date of issue. It can be renewed two times, each time with a duration of validity of three years. This means that each ordinary passport can be used for three consecutive years.

All old passports remain valid until their expiration even though the new categories of passports are already in use. However, old passports can be changed into new ones should their holders desire.

Lao citizens who wish to submit application forms for new passports or to change old passports into new ones for travel abroad must comply with the following regulations:

A person holding an old passport issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry must submit an application form with the following items—(1) a request for a passport, (2) the old passport, (3) a xeroxed copy of his own identification card, (4) a xeroxed copy of his domicile registration, (5) four 4 cm x 6 cm photos of himself, and (6) four 3 cm x 4 cm photos of each dependent, if any.

A person holding an old passport issued by the Interior Ministry or a person who has never possessed a passport must submit an application form with the following items: (1) a request for a passport, (2) a brief biography of himself as a Lao citizen, (3) the old passport, if available, (4) a xeroxed copy of his identification card, (5) a xeroxed copy of his domicile registration, (6) four 4 cm x 6 cm photos of himself, and (7) four 3 cm x 4 cm photos of each dependent.

Application forms for passports must be submitted in person, not through a third person, except in case of illness. This is because the applicants are required to sign and be fingerprinted on the documents prepared by authorities concerned for an individual person.

Those persons who want to apply for passports are reminded to check their identification cards and domicile registrations to see to it that their first and family names and dates of birth are correct and matching. This is to avoid any inconveniences arising from discrepancies in wrong names and dates of birth.

Therefore, all state agencies and Lao citizens are informed herewith for further compliance.

Philippines

Representatives to Clinton Inauguration Named

HK1201093593 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Philippines will take advantage of President Bill Clinton's inauguration to solicit additional support and goodwill in Washington. In line with this goal, President Ramos has appointed Ambassador Pablo Suarez as his representative to Clinton's inauguration this January. The president has also authorized Cesar Sarino, Government Service Insurance System general manager, Presidential Assistant Perfecto Sitio, Solicitor General Raul Goco and Livelihood Administrator Jose Rufino—who was earlier invited by the U.S. Inaugural Committee—to attend the inauguration. He also instructed Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo and Presidential Legal Counsel Antonio Carpio to meet with these officials and to brief them on ways to increase the inflow of U.S. tourists and investments into the country.

Sabah Issue Viewed Before Ramos' Malaysia Visit

HK1101150193 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Amicable Relations Despite Sabah"]

[Text] When President Fidel Ramos visits Malaysia towards the end of this month—the first Filipino president to do so in 30 years—the Sabah question shall permeate every statesmanly gesture and every pronouncement. But both the Malaysian Prime Minister and the Filipino President will be expected to demonstrate warm solidarity, emphasizing points of common interest and understating the territorial dispute.

President Ramos' visit to Malaysia is, after all, an act of public diplomacy intended to reinforce the bonds that hold together the member countries of the Asean. The dispute over Sabah has strained relations between the Philippines and Malaysia. It is, however, a problem that ought not to be perceived as unduly interfering with Asean's common project of stronger economic collaboration.

This is not yet the season for putting the Sabah question to rest. Much as he may personally be inclined to end this lingering nuisance, President Ramos cannot unilaterally drop the Sabah claim without incurring serious political opposition at home.

The Philippine Senate will almost certainly demand an equal role in bringing the Sabah question to an acceptable conclusion. A hasty treaty formulated without exhaustive consultations shall almost likely be rejected.

The Sabah issue also holds the potential for firing nationalist passions. Countries going through periods of economic difficulty, as we have seen elsewhere, are tinderboxes for xenophobic outrage. This is not the season for toying with nationalism by abrupt action on the Sabah case.

The Philippines' outstanding claim on Sabah has been submitted for international adjudication. It is best to allow this process to play itself out rather than preempt it on the basis of perceived diplomatic contingencies. A decision on dropping the Sabah claim in the light of prevailing regional political realities will have to be the outcome of a carefully cultivated national consensus. The President will lose too much if he marches too far ahead of national sentiment on the issue.

Last year, Malaysia leaned hard on the Philippine government, seeking an immediate resolution of the Sabah question by a unilateral action on our part. The pressure was timed with rising interest in the region for the formation of a common market by way of the Asean Free Trade Area. There were less-than-discreet suggestions that the Sabah dispute could get in the way of Asean economic cooperation. It did appear, at a certain point, that the Malaysians were going to hold closer economic cooperation between our two countries hostage to their insistence that we unceremoniously drop the claim.

In diplomacy, as in physics, strong action provoked strong reaction.

Malaysian pressure was greeted with a hardening of domestic opinion against unceremoniously dropping our national claim. A vociferous lobby arguing for the continued pursuit of the Sabah case was revived. Once again, the Sabah question threatens to become a political ball in the unpredictable joust of domestic factions.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad demonstrated, the other day, a more sophisticated understanding of the predicament. Speaking before a gathering of East Asian editors and publishers, he conceded that "(w)e'll have to live with the (Sabah) problem." The remarks signal Malaysian readiness to allow the Sabah dispute to take its long course of winding down as a source of regional tension.

The remarks shall go a long way towards making the forthcoming state visit a more pleasant one. It relieves the anxiety, growing on the Philippine side as the visit nears, that the Malaysians shall pounce on the occasion to repeat their earlier demand that the Philippines immediately drop the claim.

It should now be clear to the Malaysians that our competing claims to Sabah is not likely to escalate into the explosive issue it became in the late '60s. While it is too early to presume a national consensus exists to drop the claim, nor is there evidence that a sufficient constituency exists for pushing our claim to a point where it disrupts the process of increased regional collaboration. It is most likely that the issue shall continue to linger on harmlessly on the margins of our robust bilateral relations.

While the shadow of the Sabah claim cannot be completely dispelled from the state visit scheduled this month, the focus of the discussions should be on the prospects of greater economic collaboration between the Philippines and Malaysia. This will make the visit a most fruitful one.

Ramos Not To Discuss Sabah

HK1201034293 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] The Sabah issue will not be discussed during the state visit of President Ramos to Malaysia on Jan. 27-30, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo.

Romulo said that the President's visit is expected to improve the diplomatic relations between the two countries, which have been strained by the Philippines' decades-old claim over Sabah.

He said the Joint Legislative-Executive Advisory Committee on the Sabah issue met in Malacanang yesterday morning to finalize the country's position on the claim.

Romulo declined to comment on the details of the meeting outside of saying, "It is fair to assume that the subject will not be brought up at this time."

The invitation for the presidential visit was extended by Malaysian King Yang di-Pertuan Agong when he met Ramos in Brunei late last year during the 25th anniversary of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's ascension to the throne.

Present at the Malacanang meeting were Senators Edgardo Angara, Blas Ople, Arturo Tolentino, Teofisto Guingona Jr., Francisco Tatad, Ernesto Herrera, Ernesto Maceda, and Rep. [Representative] Jaime Lopez, chairman of the House foreign relations committee.

Editorial Urges Ramos: Stay Home, Solve Problems

HK1201051893 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Work Now, Fly Later"]

[Text] It may be too late to urge President Ramos to postpone his official visit to Malaysia scheduled on Jan. 27. We suggest, however, that he put off for a more auspicious time the state and official visits he is planning to make to other countries this year.

We have our misgivings about his forthcoming trip to Malaysia but at this point the government may not be able to defer it without aggravating our already strained relations with that country. We hope that the matter of the Sabah claim will not come up in any of the formal or informal talks that the President or other members of his party will have with their counterparts. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed of Malaysia has been reported to have given the assurance that he would not bring up the Philippine claim to Sabah during President Ramos' official visit. But some of the more talkative members of his official party may just shoot off their mouths on the issue and commit our country to a certain stand. We hope no such thing will happen, for the Executive still has to consult with Congress on the official stand to be taken on the Sabah question.

We understand, from the statements of the President himself, that his state and official visits (one is planned for Japan and another for the United States this year) are part of his plan to promote economic diplomacy. The idea is to expand trade with other countries, to discuss economic cooperation with them and to attract foreign investors and tourists. If one of the principal objectives of the government is, as the President said, "to show a better face of the Philippines so that we can attract tourists and investors to come here," then we will have to clean up our act to make these people come to our shores.

And what does cleaning up our act mean? It means curbing the rising tide of criminality which is so well publicized abroad that it is making potential investors think twice before investing in our country. In particular, the government will have to stop the rash of kidnappings in which most of the victims have been Chinese-Filipinos. Let us remember that some of our biggest potential investors are Chinese from Taiwan, Singapore and other East Asian countries.

The government will also have to revamp the police and the military to assure investors and tourists that their designated protectors will not turn out to be their tormentors.

The government will have to adopt a speedier solution to the problem of brownouts which are taking a daily toll in the millions of pesos on business and industry. No foreign investor in his right mind will invest in a country which cannot assure him of a sufficient and continuous power supply. Some government officials have said that the power problem will be solved by September this year. Pablo Malixi, president of the National Power Corporation, said that the power situation in Luzon will ease considerably in April. Other sectors have expressed doubt whether this is possible, considering that April is a summer month when the sources of hydroelectric power dry up. The President should wait for a more or less permanent solution to the power problem to be achieved before trying to sell the Philippines as an attractive country for foreign investment.

The government will also have to build or improve other infrastructure facilities such as transportation, telecommunication (especially the telephone system about which former Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew of Singapore recently made some biting remarks), the ports and airport, the network of roads and bridges and the water supply system.

The government will also have to show more substantial results in its peace talks with the leftist, rightist and MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] rebels before it can hope to attract more foreign investors. It has made a good beginning in its peace initative; now it has to produce some concrete results.

Finally, the government will have to tackle the problem of graft and corruption which has pervaded all sectors and all levels of society. A nation and a government that is honeycombed with graft cannot hope to attract investors, unless they are the kind who can afford to spend millions in bribes and grease money.

President Ramos, as head of government, will have to direct the concerted effort to clean up our act to make our country attractive to investors and tourists. We urge him to postpone his trips abroad and concentrate on domestic problems in the meantime. When we shall have made some headway in solving these problems then probably the President can pursue his economic diplomacy abroad through state and official visits.

Increased Aid Sought From ASEAN-Japan Fund

HK1201034593 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Jan 93 p B-1

[Text] The Philippine government is asking for an additional $100 million from the $2 billion Asean Japan Development Fund (AJDF), officials of the Board of Investment (BOI) disclosed yesterday.

The BOI officials said that the additional funding will be sourced from the commercial component of the AJDF, through the Japan Export-Import Bank. The Department of Finance (DOF) already submitted its formal request to the Eximbank.

The additional AJDF line will be used to support industries which will be hit by the implementation of the across-the-board tariff cuts under the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA).

The government is also tapping other foreign sources including the World Bank to finance the country's industrial restructuring program in order to gear up local industries for stiff foreign competition.

The Philippines earlier obtained $375 million from the AJDF, which Japan allocated to member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Of the amount, $83 million was the commercial loan component, whose interest rate is 2 percent off the market level. The bulk of $275 million was the soft loan portion, which came from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (OECF).

The BOI said that the first tranche of the commercial loan component released to the local beneficiaries has already been fully utilized.

The Philippine government, through the DOF, already sought the release of the second tranche of the commercial loan portion of the AJDF.

The $2-billion AJDF facility was approved during the Asean Summit in manila in 1987. However, the Philippines started to avail itself of its share only in 1991 because of the delays in the negotiations of the loan terms owing to disagreements with the Japanese government.

Public Works Secretary's Resignation Reported

HK1201033293 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has accepted the resignation of Public Works Secretary Jose Ping de Jesus. Sources said the president accepted the resignation last

Christmas. The same sources said De Jesus decided to resign because of too much politicking in the department and his inability to manage his people. De Jesus said it hurt to learn that the persons he trusted were involved in illegal dealings. Among those eyed to replace De Jesus are Public Works Under Secretary Teodoro Encarnacion, Bataan Congressman Felicisimo Payumo, former Cebu Governor Lito Osmena, and former Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague.

Reports of Resignation Denied

HK1201103093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Malacanang has strongly denied reports that President Ramos has accepted Public Works and Highways Secretary Jose Ping de Jesus' resignation, which allegedly would take effect by the end of the month. Presidential Spokesperson Annabel Tecson-Abaya has said that she was able to personally talk to Secretary de Jesus last Saturday afternoon [9 January] during a workshop at Malacanang. When she asked de Jesus about the rumors of his resignation, the Department of Public Works and Highways [DPWH] secretary simply laughed and dismissed the reports as mere speculation. Abaya added that de Jesus recently submitted a report to President Ramos explaining the delay in the reconstruction of the Loakan Airport and Baguio City Road, which was destroyed during the 1990 killer quake. In his report, de Jesus said that he had dismissed one of the project's contractors for causing the delay. Abaya stressed that the president continues to have faith in the current DPWH secretary's capabilities, hence there is no reason for de Jesus to resign.

Ramos Rejects Fielding 'Secret Marshalls'

HK1101093493 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos today rejected the Chinese community's proposal to field secret marshalls [undercover law enforcement officers] in the country.

In a news conference, the president stressed that, while there is a need to intensify efforts to protect citizens following the increased activity of kidnap gangs, there is no need to return to the secret marshalls, because this could lead to increased human rights violations.

Nevertheless, the president said his office welcomes proposals from the Philippine National Police and even the Armed Forces of the Philippines on how to more effectively enforce the law and curb criminal activity, especially the incidence of kidnap-for-ransom cases in the country.

[Begin Ramos recording] This is not a new proposal; it has been proposed in the past by several other groups. But it has deep implications for human rights and the rule of law. While I give due respect to this proposal, which has come from the federation and the Filipino-Chinese community, I think we should hear other from sectors as well, because, if the idea is to solve the problem of criminality—and we should address this with firm and decisive measures, as we doing now—we do not need to get into very controversial or borderline activity such as having secret marshalls. [end recording]

Orders 'Top-to-Bottom Police Revamp'

HK1201032893 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1240 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has ordered Raul Imperial, Philippine National Police chief, to start a top-to-bottom police revamp. Ramos' move is aimed at improving and retaining the credibility of the police. The president issued the order due to the continuous kidnappings in the country, which have affected innocent people. He stressed the importance of restoring the people's trust in the police following the killing of kidnap victim Charlene May Sy.

Secretary: 10,000 Police Personnel To Be Removed

HK1201060893 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Rafael Alunan III, Department of Interior and Local Government [DILG] secretary, confirmed today that 10,000 personnel of the Philippine National Police [PNP] will be removed from the service as part of the government's efforts to improve the image and credibility of the PNP.

Alunan said this is part of the program of President Ramos, as well as of the leadership of DILG and the PNP, to make the PNP one of the most respected police forces in Asia.

At present, he said his office is coordinating with the PNP Inspectorate and Personnel Division to keep track of the cases of policemen who have been absent without leave [AWOL] or involved in various cases.

PNP Director-General Raul Imperial admitted that one of the biggest problems now is how to confiscate the guns issued to those to be dismissed from the service, especially those who are AWOL.

Alunan said they reached this decision because they have proven that many of the police personnel are involved in many crimes not only in Metro Manila, but also in other parts of the country.

[Begin Alunan recording in English] The AWOL personnel, I am told, can already be drummed out of the service. What is critical for us, however, is the recovery of the firearms issued to them while they were in the service. [end recording]

Government Firm on Peace Talks in Country

HK1001011293 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] The government has remained firm on holding the second round of exploratory talks between rebel groups and representatives of the Ramos administration in the Philippines.

In an interview with DZRH News, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa stressed that in order for the peace program to succeed, rebel groups such as the Moro National Liberation Front, the National Democratic Front [NDF], the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union must also cooperate with the National Unification Commission [NUC]. De Villa said since the NUC has already cooperated with various requests of rebel groups to hold the first part of exploratory talks in places and countries of their choice, the government must now be given the chance to choose the venue for the second part of the talks, which is the Philippines.

[Begin De Villa recording] What is most important is for the talks to proceed in order to reach final negotiations. Our government's, as well as the NUC's position, according to the invitation we sent them, is that the second part of exploratory talks must this time be held in our country. And so, if there are conflicting proposals whereby the rebels have their position and we have ours, I do not know what will happen. I think we should study their response very well because there are things they say that we cannot accept because they are all lies. [end recording]

General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, has challenged Jose Maria Sison, CPP founding chairman, to return to the Philippines to participate in the peace negotiations. Abadia stressed Sison's return will eliminate popular doubt that he remains the principal obstacle to true national peace. Prior to this, Abadia said the continued refusal of CPP leaders to return to the Philippines is one of the biggest impediments to the Ramos administration's reconciliation offer.

Abadia added Sison's group has persistently insisted that peace talks between the government and the NDF be held abroad in order, the rebels say, to ensure the safety of their negotiators. The proposal was refused by the NUC as well as President Fidel V. Ramos, believing that the problem of rebellion in the country is a matter for internal discussion and must be solved in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the NUC has been carefully studying the NDF's response to the government's stand on holding the second round of peace talks in the country. Based on the official NUC statement, the NDF has formally accepted going on with the talks, but not in the country. The NUC added the commission will study carefully and in detail the NDF response and, in the following days, will submit its recommendation to President Ramos for him to announce the final decision regarding the matter. The NDF has continued its bid through its chairman Sison to hold the second part of the peace talks abroad. He also sent a warning that the talks will not push through if the Ramos government continues to insist on holding the negotiations in the Philippines.

Military Rebels Submit Talking Points to NUC

HK1101110093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Passages within slantlines in English]

[Text] The Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-SFP-YOU] has formally submitted its five talking points to the National Unification Committee [NUC].

NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac enumerated the five talking points as follows: good, honest and efficient government for national renewal and transformation; electoral reform that will ensure clean and honest elections in the country; implementation of national economic development policies and programs; the actualization of the social justice program that is needed to solve poverty, unemployment and criminality in the country; and national defense and security concerns.

General Edgardo Abenina, Captain Proceso Maligalig and Captain Danilo Lim personally submitted the RAM's five talking points to Chairperson Yorac. Yorac said the NUC will discuss the RAM's talking points on Wednesday (13 January) and will formulate a unified government response. Yorac also told DZRH News that the military rebels will finalize the composition of their negotiating panel by the end of the week.

[Begin Yorac recording] They may have a negotiating panel by the end of this week. /But I cannot really speak for them./ As it is stated here: /We also wish to inform the honorable chairperson that, as of today, we have formed our official negotiating panel to undertake formal negotiations. The panel will be provided with terms of reference, authority, and formally presented to the NUC at the appropriate time./ [end recording]

NPA 'Hard-Liners' Said Planning Assassinations

HK1101112193 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] New People's Army [NPA] hard-liners are reportedly planning to assassinate five high-ranking NPA leaders in Northern Luzon for supporting localized peace talks—a move which goes against the Communist Party of the Philippines Central Committee's stand in favor of national level peace talks. A military intelligence report identified the targets as Leo Velasco, head of the NPA Northern Luzon Commission; Elizabeth Principe, Cordillera Regional Commission leader; Jovencio Balweg of the Cordillera Regional Commission; Mario Paawan of the Abra Provincial Unit Guerrilla; and Domingo Terectecan, Pangasinan-Zambales Provincial Unit Guerrilla leader.

NDF Submits Demands for Peace Talks

HK1101125093 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 9 Jan 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] has submitted to the government a 10-point demand for the continuation of exploratory talks in the Netherlands. Insisting on the foreign venue repeatedly rejected by the government, the NDF asked that the talks be resumed soon and conducted discreetly.

This was contained in a Jan. 6 letter of NDF vice chairman Luis Jalandoni to Tarlac Rep. [Representative] Jose Yap. The two headed their respective panels during the first exploratory talks in the Hague last Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. The letter, a copy of which was shown to the INQUIRER, was discussed in the meeting of the National Unification Commission [NUC] last Thursday. NUC Chairman Haydee Yorac, however, said the peace body needs some time to study the demands because of the "complexity" of the issues presented by Jalandoni. The NUC is expected to come out with a recommendation in one week.

According to the NDF, the government must meet four of the demands before the talks could progress beyond the exploratory stage. The rest concerns the technical aspect of the talks. The four demands are as follows: a stop to the government's "total war policy," including "massive bombings of people and civilian communities;" a stop to its psywar [psychological warfare] campaign which not only "manifests the insecurity of Ramos but threatens the prospects for formal bilateral negotiations;" the prompt release of 500 political prisoners; and "exchange of views on the socio-economic and political situation and the objectionable policies of the Ramos government."

The letter was actually a response to an invitation by Yap last month for Jalandoni to come home for the new exploratory talks here. "It is the firm position of the NDF that it is best that the next exploratory talks be held soon and in a neutral venue offering a conducive atmosphere for a fruitful exchange," he said in the letter. "For the talks with the NDF as with the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] it is shown (that a foreign venue is) an appropriate arrangement. For the moment that we are to meet for one or two months, the Netherlands will be the best venue for the exploratory talks."

The NDF had scoffed at the government's flexibility with the Moro National Liberation Front on the matter of venue. The Ramos administration had agreed to continue talks with MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari in Jakarta, Indonesia this month. Yorac had strongly insisted on holding the talks here, saying the communist insurgency is an internal problem that should be resolved here. The President has also ruled out a foreign venue for the talks.

Asked to comment on Jalandoni's letter, former NDF spokesman and peace negotiator Satur Ocampo said the deadlock in the peace process with the underground Left would worsen if the government rejects this latest NDF position on the venue. "I think the government should adjust its hardline stance on the venue of exploratory talks in order to resolve issues that hamper the peace process," Ocampo said. "Otherwise, the burden of responsibility for the deadlock will fall on the government. It (hardline stance) doesn't work for the interest of the peace." He noted that the NDF wants the talks to be held in the Netherlands because the "physical and security arrangements" there would hasten the four-month-old peace process.

The rest of the NDF's 10-point agenda for the exploratory talks are: the NDF's itemization of The Hague agenda; the 10 refinements of the NUC; the arrangement of the respective agenda into "appropriate topics"; the sequence of the agenda; the composition, methods of work and meetings of the reciprocal working committees that will tackle the agenda; and the venue and other modalities of the committees and future exploratory talks.

The NDF wanted the media out of the planned resumption, apparently agreeing to Yap's proposal that the talks should not be covered in the press. "We are of the opinion that it is best to keep the next exploratory talks discreet until such time when both sides find it appropriate to issue statements," Jalandoni said.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, meanwhile, said he favored the inclusion of cashiered Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan in the panel of rightist rebels who will meet with government representatives late this month. Interviewed in Malacanang, De Villa, who is an NUC member, said "it will be a good idea if he is down there himself."

The Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance], however, has yet to "formally inform us about the composition of their panel," he said. De Villa also said that the NUC was inclined to "meet with only one panel, not two groups, who will represent the military rebels." Former Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. [Maria] Zumel heads the other group of military rebels who are said to be loyalists of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

MNLF Leader Insists on Talks in Jeddah

HK1201060693 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] leader Nur Misuari remains adamant that the second round of exploratory talks between the government and the MNLF be held abroad.

This was disclosed by Congressman Eduardo Ermita, member of the National Unification Council [NUC] panel for the peace talks with MNLF.

Earlier, the NUC decided to hold the talks either in Mindanao or Manila. Misuari is insisting that the talks be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Thailand

Foreign Minister To Meet Sihanouk in Beijing

BK1201040193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Jan 93 p A2

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri will meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing next week in a bid to break the peace accords stalemate in Cambodia, a well-placed source said.

Proposals to hold a presidential election in Cambodia prior to the May constituent assembly elections would feature in the talks, said the source.

Prasong will also meet Chinese leaders to discuss ways of persuading the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the peace process.

Prasong's two-day visit, beginning Monday, was hastily arranged in response to Sihanouk's offer on Friday to meet him on Jan 18, the source said. Prasong had requested a meeting with Sihanouk after he failed to persuade the Khmer Rouge to co-operate in the UN peace plan at a meeting in Bangkok on Dec 28.

Diplomatic flights to Beijing, where Sihanouk is receiving medical treatment, have intensified during the past two weeks as the UN's end-of-the-month deadline for Khmer Rouge participation nears.

The intransigent guerrilla faction has vowed to remain outside the peace process, despite UN economic sanctions, unless their demands for a more powerful role for the Supreme National Council (SNC) and verification of the total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces are met.

Diplomats here believe a presidential poll would be won by Sihanouk and would provide him with the authority to stabilize the country and win over the Khmer Rouge.

Sihanouk, the appointed SNC president has been widely criticized as lacking genuine influence and being exploited by the Phnom Penh faction.

Sihanouk on Saturday, in what was widely-seen as a tactical move, reneged on his earlier announcement that he would no longer co-operate with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac).

He agreed to continue co-operating with Untac and to contest the presidential poll, and called for a UN-supervised meeting of the SNC in Beijing on Jan 28.

A proposal for a presidential election was made prior the imposition of UN trade sanctions, but received little support because of differences between the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

France and Britain favoured the election, but the United States and China wanted all efforts to concentrate on the May general election. Indonesia, which co-chaired the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC) viewed the proposal as two-edged.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai during his official visit to Malaysia last week received Kuala Lumpur's support for a Thai push to get the proposal through.

Prasong, who accompanied Chuan said when he returned on Friday that he would consult with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who was expected to pass through Bangkok soon. [passage omitted]

Deputy Premier Defends Rice Price Supports

BK0901042493 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasathian is confident that government measures to shore up paddy prices will start bearing fruit in a week.

Defending the Government's paddy mortgage scheme, Mr Bunchu said yesterday that the scheme would help prevent farmers being taken advantage of by merchants early in the harvest season. He said the Government would instruct state agencies concerned to speed up buying paddy from farmers and will order the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives to quicken its work in accepting paddy mortgaged by the farmers.

But Mr Bunchu noted that responsible ministers must closely follow the progress of all government schemes to shore up paddy prices in order to enhance their effectiveness. If all concerned seriously follow up the measures, they should start bearing fruit in a week, he said.

Deputy government spokesman Thamrong Thaimongkhon also expressed confidence yesterday that the measures would help solve the problem of falling paddy prices before the Opposition could go ahead with its plan to censure the coalition Government in the next parliamentary session.

Mr Thamrong (Social Action Party) added that the Opposition had the right to raise any issue to attack the Government, but the latter was confident all the measures it had introduced would yield results soon.

Meanwhile, Interior Ministry sources who were monitoring farmers' movements in the provinces said that until yesterday there had been no reports of any group of farmers planning to come to Bangkok to protest against the paddy price plunge. However, there have been news reports that farmers, assisted by the Opposition, may travel to Bangkok today to air their grievances.

The Chat Thai Party has called an urgent meeting of its MPs and other party members next Tuesday to prepare for a countrywide tour to "explain" to farmers about the current paddy price plunge and how to tackle the problem.

Chat Thai secretary-general Banhan Sinlapa-acha met with key party MPs yesterday and agreed on the move described by coalition MPs as a clear attempt to mobilise farmers nationwide to protest against the Government. Mr Banhan said he called yesterday's meeting because paddy prices had been falling while the Government appeared unable to correct the situation in time.

Deputy party secretary-general Praphat Phosuthon said Chat Thai had given the Chuan Likphai Government ample time to prove its ability to work, but the Government could neither solve the paddy problem nor meet farmers' needs. He said the situation had reached the point where the Chat Thai could no longer stand aside and watch, and had to call an urgent meeting on Tuesday to discuss the problem.

Mr Praphat said the purpose of Tuesday's meeting was to gather information on the paddy price problem, to prepare explanations for farmers about the situation, and to work out measures to tackle it.

He added that Chat Thai had been in many coalition governments before and had many "proven measures" to solve this problem.

Opposition parties are scheduled to have a discussion over dinner at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre on Tuesday evening on the topic of "What have we gained from the Government?"

Deputy Prime Ministers Amnuai Wirawan and Suphachai Phanitchaphak assured yesterday the Government is speedily releasing rice into the world market to help increase the low domestic rice price.

Returning from a tour to Malaysia along with the Prime Minister, Mr Amnuai confirmed the Government has been hurrying to release stocks of rice into the world market to boost up the prices in the local market. But the deputy premier said the rice price problem will take time to be solved. In the meantime, the Finance and Commerce ministries are taking various measures to support the fast flow of rice exports, Mr Amnuai said.

The deputy premier under the New Aspiration Party quota said the export rice prices should be in line with the world market prices and asked private exporters to speed up the exports since the Government alone cannot export all the stocks available currently.

Russia To Repay Debt on 1991 Rice Deal

BK0901063293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Jan 93 p B1

[Text] Russia has informed the Commerce Ministry that it will honour the Bt [baht] 5 billion debt it incurred buying Thai rice two years ago, a trade official said. Earlier this week a Thai commercial counsellor in Moscow reported that Andrey Ambartsunnain, deputy chairman of the state-run Exportkhleb, had requested that repayments to Thailand be delayed pending a return to political stability in Russia. But he confirmed that Russia was committed to paying its debt for 200,000 tonnes of 15 per cent rice.

Ambartsunnain was reported to have said that Exportkhleb would request the Bank of Foreign Trade Department for the Russian Federation to repay the debt soon. A rice deal with Russia caused controversy three days ago when Tawat Wichaidit, secretary to the Prime Minister, told reporters accompanying Prime Minister Chuan Likphai to Malaysia that Russia had agreed to buy another 500,000 tonnes of rice from Thailand.

On Thursday, Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon stressed that the Thai government had yet to sell the rice to Russia because its delegates had cancelled their plans to travel to Thailand to negotiate the deal.

However, the Federal Contract Corporation, another Russian agency dealing with farm imports, has also informed the Commerce Ministry that it wants to buy rice and tapioca pellets from Thailand, if it is provided with credit. The Federal Contract Corporation was quoted as saying that it would like to buy 400,000-500,000 tonnes of 10-15 per cent rice. But the Thai Department of Foreign Trade replied that Thailand would prefer to sell tapioca pellets to Russia for cash or barter, to which the Federal Contract Corporation said it would consider the proposal.

Trying to inject confidence into the rice market, Commerce Minister Uthai insisted: "From now on the domestic rice price will not fall below the current level."

To boost the rice price, the Commerce Ministry is trying to release its stock of about 700,000 tonnes to the overseas market as quickly as possible so that it has room to restock with domestic rice.

Apart from sending officials to visit different regions of the country, the Commerce Ministry has despatched trade delegations to survey rice markets in Malaysia, Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Dubayy, Iran, Africa, Ghana, Brazil and Mexico.

Uthai said although Cabinet had approved a plan for the Commerce Ministry to sell rice at competitive prices on world markets, the ministry had no policy of undercutting the rice price.

"We want to sell at a price level acceptable to importers," he said. He added that he was not certain how much more rice Thailand would be able to sell on the world markets, but hoped that the road-show would help boost the domestic price.

Saman Opatwong, president of the Rice Exporters' Association, said the current government measures to shore up rice prices were a sound method of helping to bring stability to the domestic price.

"But it will be difficult to look for overseas markets because buyers have the option of buying from different producers," he said.

He added that Vietnam, Thailand's rival rice exporter, was selling 15 per cent rice at US$30-US$40 per tonne lower than Thai rice, and 25 per cent rice at US$60 per tonne lower.

Board of Trade Statement on Rice Price Slump

BK0901064493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Jan 93 pp B1, B8

[Text] The priority in dealing with the paddy price slump should focus on trying to export as much rice as possible, the Board of Trade said in a statement yesterday.

The organization, which mainly represents exporters, said low paddy prices have been a problem for the country for the past 30 years due to excess supply. The situation has caused political problems for all governments with attacks invariably centring on the commerce minister.

The problem should be resolved on a long-term basis, the report said. The Board of Trade suggested two ways to solve the depressed price in the long term to encourage local farmers to switch to other crops and find an appropriate way to keep domestic rice prices at a level competitive with international exports.

The report suggested that with government support farmers should switch from low-quality rice which is expensive to produce, to other types of agriculture, such as animal breeding or growing fruit and vegetables. Farmers should change their occupation to survive in a changing world, the report said.

This season's paddy price slump is described by the Board of Trade as severe as during the tenure of former Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and forrner Commerce Minister Koson Krairoek.

The trade organization described the financial measures being used this time round as better prepared. The government is more ready to deal with the situation, it said. But what makes the situation different this time are external factors. The prices of medium-to-low grade rice on the international market has fallen relatively because of a flood of Vietnam rice exports. The price of the high-quality rice, however, was not so sluggish due the limited worldwide supply.

The Opposition and government critics attributed the drop in domestic paddy prices to bad policy making by the Commerce Ministry, but the report argues that the rice price did not drop from the wrong intervention programme.

The Board of Trade said the Commerce Ministry did not use inappropriate intervention, such as setting a premium for rice exports or asking rice traders to set aside reserves, as claimed by the Opposition parties.

The report noted that although the drop of price has been one of the most serious issues faced by any government, no administration has ever implemented any measures to solve the problem in the long term. The report cited the government's programme to develop stocks, which has been mentioned for more than 30 years, but never been implemented.

The initiative to develop the paddy stocking system will arise every time the rice price drops to crisis level, but once prices move up, the government and the critics tend to forget the idea, the report added.

The report said that, worse still, the more the Opposition amplifies farmers' suffering, the more farmers rush to sell their products. This makes the situation worse by depressing prices further.

The Board of Trade's report suggests that the government should solve the problem not only by intervening rice prices, but also by reassuring farmers of the long term outlook for rice prices.

To achieve this, the government should concentrate on finding ways to boost the volume of Thai rice exports as the main priority. The government should then concentrate on other supporting measures, such as the rice pledging and purchase programmes. The government and organizations involved should assure farmers that they will get good prices if they hold on to their output and sell in the next 5-6 months.

Chuan Defends Handling of Low Rice Prices

BK1001030093 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 10 Jan 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai insists the Government is doing its best to help farmers while paddy prices are low.

"Farmers can get money from the paddy they have just harvested. If they feel prices are low and do not want to sell it now they can mortgage it with the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives [BAAC]," he said yesterday. "I have ordered the BAAC to implement this measure everywhere."

Mr Chuan said paddy support measures have been allocated their largest annual budget and the Government will find other measures to raise paddy prices although the global price of rice is low.

The Government anticipated the problem and prepared to solve it earlier than in previous years. Past governments began their paddy mortgage scheme between late December and early January but his administration launched its measures on November 26.

Mr Chuan responded to suggestions the issue is becoming political by saying it is the duty of the Government to step up public relations work to ensure people know that solving farmers' problems requires help from all sides.

Attempts to help farmers have been hampered by the size of the rice surplus still in stock. The Government has not succeeded in exporting rice, he said.

The Premier, who will make an inspection trip to Uthai Thani today, said the ministers involved will meet again tomorrow following a meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers.

Solving the paddy price problem is not as easy as "one plus one makes two". "I realise this problem well. It explains why all deputy prime ministers responsible for economic affairs have been mobilised to help solve the problem," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan meanwhile denies there are conflicts between the Commerce and Finance ministries over exports of rice.

"I don't think there will be any problem (about the debt) because Russia is a big country. But, as we know, that country had a lot of problems last year and it will take some time before it can honour contracts with other countries," he said. He is confident the Government's measures to stabilise paddy prices will be effective, although mills and exporters have hesitated to comply with them because of strong competition in the world market and the rice surplus.

The Government's promise to dispose of the rice surplus as soon as possible—by buying a quantity of the rice and accepting rice from farmers under the mortgage scheme—should soon see an improvement, he said.

Mr Banyat said the Cabinet has not discussed a suggestion that rice-growing areas should be reduced.

Air Force commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip is also confident the Government can solve the problem. He urged farmers who might rally against the Government to think otherwise and let the Government do its work.

"Mob rule to apply pressure should no longer be used. I don't agree with it." All sides should understand the problem well and should work together to solve it instead of protesting, ACM Kan said. [passage omitted]

Opposition Organizes Debates on Rice Prices

BK1001043293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Jan 93 pp A1, A2

[Excerpt] The Chat Thai Party is spearheading a move by opposition parties to organize a series of public debates in the provinces to put pressure on the Chuan government over its failure to shore up falling paddy prices. Sources said Chat Thai is also planning to coordinate with the parties to mobilize disgruntled farmers into protesting in Bangkok.

Sano Thianthong, deputy leader of Chat Thai Party, said his party is serious in trying to get the Chuan administration to introduce more effective measures to deal with the paddy price situation. He said his party will discuss organizing a series of public debates in rice-growing provinces with the other parties when they meet on Jan 12.

"We are targeting provinces where paddy prices are a serious problem," he said.

Sano claimed that the proposed debates are aimed at collecting information and recommendations for the government to solve the problem. "Our intention is not to attack the government," he said.

An informed source in the party said the provinces where Chat Thai will organize the debates are Nakhon Sawan, Lop Buri, Suphan Buri, Ang Thong and Sing Buri and in the northeast where farmers are most vocal about the falling paddy prices. These provinces are also political strongholds of Chat Thai and other opposition parties.

Besides organizing public debates, sources said Chat Thai also wants the opposition parties to mobilize farmers to join a protest demonstration in Bangkok.

"Some members of Chat Thai see this as another measure to tighten pressure on the Chuan government," one source said. But the source noted that the idea might not appeal to the other opposition parties since it would require heavy financing.

Farming leaders in several provinces have confirmed approaches by certain political parties to march to Bangkok.

Chuan Prachakun, a village headman in Tambon Hua Samrong of Tawung district in Lop Buri told THE NATION he and his colleagues were contacted by a political party to join a demonstration in Bangkok.

"But we are still reluctant to join because we don't think the problem is that serious yet," he said.

Pancha Kesonthong, deputy leader of Chat Phatthana Party, was non-committal on whether his party would join the Chat Thai campaign over paddy prices.

"The party leader (Gen Chatchai Chunhawan) will have to decide. But I personally will not want to join the proposed public debates because we can debate the issue in the House," he said. [passage omitted]

Ministers To Use Rice Subsidies as 'Last Resort'

BK1201032593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 93 pp 15, 24

[Text] The Council of Economic Ministers yesterday decided that overall rice export subsidies may be used as a last resort if the present assistance programme fails to shore-up paddy prices.

If the council, which is chaired by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and has full Cabinet powers on economic matters, decides to use the subsidies, it will be the first time the controversial proposal supported by several agricultural economists is added to the many programmes the Government employs in its attempt to raise prices.

At present the Government does have an export subsidy programme, but it is only for sales by the Government itself. Under the programme the Government buys from private exporters, and in previous years this has been the subject of accusations of corruption.

One of the most prominent advocates of across-the-board export subsidies is Ammar Siamwalla, the president of the Thailand Development Research Institute. Dr Ammar has argued repeatedly that other programmes are too selective.

He says they favour only specific groups of farmers and traders and do not provide buyers with the incentive to compete to buy up paddy, which would be the most effective means of raising prices.

In an ideal world, the most suitable subsidies would be given at a flat rate for every ton of paddy farmers sell to millers, Dr Ammar and other economists argue. But because of the thousands of transactions involved, such a programme would be highly vulnerable to abuse and corruption, the economists say.

As a second-best solution, they have for several years argued that flat-rate automatic subsidies should be paid on every ton of rice exported. This would stimulate demand from foreign buyers and encourage exporters to compete more intensively to buy rice on the domestic market, ultimately raising paddy prices.

But the economists have also argued that subsidy programmes of this kind should be announced before the harvest season, in October or November, so the market can respond in time for all farmers to benefit.

In addition to Dr Ammar, another advocate of these subsidies is Thammasat University economist Choemsak Pinthong.

Government Spokesman Aphisit Wetchchachiwa was a colleague of Dr Choemsak's at Thammasat University before entering politics this year. He said after yesterday's meeting that the Government agreed with the concept of export subsidies.

They could help Thai exporters compete in the depressed world market for low-grade rice, he said, but the Government would have to consider further details first.

"There is no denying that domestic rice prices rely on the world rice market so the Government has to boost exports as much as it can to shore up paddy prices. But it must be assured that any measure will directly benefit farmers," Mr Aphisit said.

Mr Aphisit said if the Government came up with any support scheme or paid compensation for rice exporters to sell rice at cheap prices, it had to be ready to defend itself against claims that it was favouring a particular group of rice exporters

Earlier, Dr Ammar criticised Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon's policy of trying to export rice on a government-to-government basis for being too selective and favouring rice exporters who are able to participate in the scheme by supplying rice to the Government.

Dr Ammar's comments were supported by many major rice exporters, who expressed concerns that the Government's effort to export more than 1.2 million tons of low-grade rice could adversely affect Thai rice exports in the world market because they faced losses of they tried to sell their own rice at the smae low prices as the Government.

Mr Aphisit's statement indicated that the Government may have decided that attempting only to export rice by itself may not be an effective measure to shore-up prices. But the Government is still reluctant to fully support private sector exports because its measure may be criticised by some Opposition parties which are trying to split the Government on the issue.

However, Thai Rice Mills Association president Niphon Wongtra-ngarn yesterday voiced strong opposition to the idea of providing an export subsidy programme for rice exporters, saying he believed it would benefit some rice exporters more than farmers.

"There is no guarantee that rice exporters will buy domestic rice at prices as high as the compensation rate which they are paid to export the rice at cheap prices," Mr Niphon said. Instead of subsidising exports, Mr Niphon proposed that the Government fully support all measures to encourage farmers to stock their paddy under the paddy mortgage scheme. He also suggested that the Bank of Thailand reduce the interest rate on the packing credit facilities for exporters and rice millers from 10% to 5% per annum to encourage rice stocking. On exports, Mr Niphon proposed that the Government provide a support programme for exporters to make large rice deals with long-term credit. At a press conference yesterday, Mr Abhisit said the Government was confident that paddy prices would increase in the near future as a result of numerous Government support measures. "Now all related groups are confident that paddy prices will increase because of the Government's firm promise it will do everything to shore-up prices, so they have begun to stock their products," he said. At the same time, the Commerce Ministry would this month seek to arrange deals with major foreign rice buyers by sending several rice trade missions to potential markets Mr Uthai yesterday flew to Malaysia and Singapore to seek opportunities to arrange rice deals with the two countries. Another mission, led by Commerce Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Somsak Yamasmit, will fly to Iran and Dubayy this week.

Mr Aphisit said the Commerce Ministry would further stimulate domestic rice prices by continually buying rice for stocking and by trying to encourage farmers to pledge paddy with the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC). The ministry has a target of at least 800,000 tons being pledged this month.

The ministry has bought 318,600 tons of medium- and low-grade rice from exporters and millers this month and is preparing to buy another 157,000 tons this week.

At the weekend, Deputy Commerce Minister Chaiyot Sasomsap called a meeting with representatives of the Thai Rice Mills Association to ask them to support the paddy pledging scheme by providing warehouse facilities for farmers for the paddy they pledge as collateral for BAAC soft loans.

The Government would also this week invite all major commercial banks to a meeting to ask them to provide financial support for the Government's rice policy.

Paper Updates Saudi Murder Inquiry

BK1101044493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Jan 93 pp A7, A8

[Text] When Mohammad Sa'id al-Khujah was assigned by the Saudi government to Thailand as its new charge d'affaires in March, 1990, he had only one mission. "I was to lock up the embassy and go home," the soft-spoken diplomat recalled.

The Saudis had good reason to be outraged enough to consider shutting down their mission in Bangkok. Six weeks earlier, three officials of the Saudi Embassy were gunned down in two separate but related attacks. And less than a year before that, another of its diplomats was also murdered in Bangkok.

The murders did not come without warning. Al-Khujah said Saudi intelligence had alerted Thai authorities that there would be attempts on the lives of Saudi diplomats in Bangkok. The Saudi request for special security for Saudi diplomats apparently fell on deaf ears.

Al-Khujah admitted that he arrived in Bangkok with a lot of apprehensions. Could he be the next victim?

For the next several months, al-Khujah never felt safe. And no matter how much he disliked it, al-Khujah had to move around the city always with a pistol under his jacket and extra bodyguards. "This was just in case I had to defend myself," he said. And when he travelled in his limousine for his routine appointments, al-Khujah often kept the pistol ready on his lap. Again, just in case. "Who was to know when the gunmen would attack again. I might have had to use the pistol not only to save myself but to help my bodyguards if necessary."

Al-Khujah remembered that the three diplomats were killed just in front of their homes after leaving their limousines.

What compounded the situation was the subsequent disappearance of a Saudi businessman, Muhammad al-Ruwayli, shortly after the killings in 1990. The 32-year-old Saudi happened to be a member of a prominent clan with close connection with the ruling Royal Family in Riyadh. Al-Ruwayli was a partner in a local job placement agency.

Despite the mounting frustrations, al-Khujah was still hopeful that something would sooner or later come out of the investigation by the Thai police into the murders. "I told my government to wait for the sake of Thai-Saudi good relations," he said.

And for almost three years, his government has waited. It has been a futile and sometimes frustrating wait for the Saudis. Thai police kept feeding them with vague promises that it was only a matter of time before they would lay their hands on the culprits.

What particularly irked the Saudis was how the Thai police kept changing their stories about what they found in their investigation into the two murder cases. The Saudis became convinced that Thai police were only dragging their feet and had no intention of resolving the cases.

The cases were dragged through five governments—Chatchai, Anan I, Suchinda, Anan II and Chuan—and yet the Saudis are still being kept in the dark.

First, the police concluded that the murders of the Saudi diplomats in 1989 and 1990 were the result of conflicts in the export of Thai labour to the Middle East. But they later changed their theory, claiming international terrorists were behind the murders. But when pressed for evidence, the police changed tunes again and said some financial conflicts might have triggered the murders. Finally, they came to another conclusion. They claimed that a gang of Pakistani criminals preying on Saudi tourists in Phatthaya were responsible for the murders.

Each of the theories had the Saudis frowning in disbelief. "All we want to know is who was behind the killings so that we can find measures to protect our diplomats here" said al-Khujah. "But the Thai police kept telling us different stories all the time."

In what was seen as a big slap in the face of Thai police, two suspects in the murder cases, both of them Thai Muslims, were acquitted by the court for lack of evidence. The police had hoped that they would be able to "settle" the two cases with the arrest of the two men, Adinan Songkerwala and Suchat Herabi.

Adinan was charged with killing Salih 'Abdallah al-Maliki, third secretary of the Saudi Embassy, in front of his apartment on Soi Phipat I off Sathon Road on Jan 4, 1989.

Suchat was charged with conspiring with the three other suspects, who were still at large, to kill 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Basri, 32, the Saudi Embassy's second secretary of the consular section, Fahd 'Abdallah al-Balla', 35, an official in the consular section and Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Sa'if, 26, an office clerk. The two murders took place in front of the victims' home and apartment in Thung Mahamek area.

The judge who threw out the case against Suchat said some witnesses' testimonies contradicted each other while accounts by other witnesses lacked credibility.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan, who was then a Democrat MP representing Nakhon Si Thammarat, and human rights lawyer Thongbai Thongpao were instrumental in trying to prove that Suchat was no more than just a "scapegoat" in the case. Pol Lt Gen Thanu Homhuan, the commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau, was dealt a heavy blow to his credibility as a result. The top police investigator had been put in charge of the two cases and was behind the many theories about the murders. He even offered to have his "head cut off" if he ended up putting the wrong persons behind bars.

Thanu, who headed one of the investigation teams, was so confident that he told reporters police knew the identities of the persons behind the killings. He said the mastermind was a "foreigner" married to a Thai and had two Thai gunmen carry out the murder. But Thanu had no chance to prove his theory because he was soon replaced as chief investigator of the cases.

As Thai police continued to juggle the cases around, a new and embarrassing event took place to further complicate the situation. A Thai worker, Kriangkrai Techamong, stole more than Bt [baht] 500 million worth of jewellery from a Saudi prince who was his employer in Riyadh in late 1990. The Thai police were efficient enough to net Kriangkrai soon after he returned with the heist. But the real bombshell came with a subsequent complaint from the Saudi prince that the jewellery returned to him by the Thai police represented only a small portion of what was stolen. And what was worse was that many of the "valuables" turned out to be fake.

The spotlight fell on Pol Lt Gen Chalo Koetthet, who was then deputy commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau and lead of the investigation team. Chalo was subsequently investigated over the scandal after being moved to an inactive post. The scandal definitely did nothing to help the image of Thai police in the eyes of the Saudis.

Despite repeated attempts by Thai authorities at all levels to appease the Saudis, Riyadh has refused to lift its ban on new Thai workers going to Saudi Arabia which has long been a major market for Thai labour. The ban was imposed shortly after the second murder case in 1990. Saudis are also being discouraged by their authorities from visiting Thailand.

The last time the murder cases made headlines was when Police Director General Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat told reporters in October, 1991, that the mastermind of the killings had fled to Pakistan and was being held by authorities there. He said Thai police were trying to verify whether he was the same person they wanted.

The political turbulence which hit Thailand in May 1992 pushed the cases into near oblivion. "But we have not forgotten. We are still waiting for Thai police to tell us what happened," the Saudi charge d'affaires told THE NATION in mid-1992.

Al-Khujah said the ruling Royal Family in Riyadh was also very anxious about knowing the fate of the missing Saudi businessman Muhammad al-Ruwayli. Thai police had also been giving conflicting accounts about what might have happened to him. One of the investigations indicated he might have had some knowledge about the motives behind the killings.

The cases were revived again after the Chuan government came to power. "We can't expect to have normal relations with Saudi Arabia until the police are able to resolve the cases," said Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan who has been in close touch with the Saudi Embassy over the cases.

With Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut turning the heat on him, Police Director General Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat finally decided he had to do something—knowing full well that his career future is at stake. His "something" was the decision to take legal action against a senior police investigator, Pol Lt Col Somkit Bunthanom.

Pol Lt Col Somkit, who was arrested on Thursday on a murder charge, is alleged to be responsible for the mysterious disappearance of the Saudi businessman and to possibly have some information about the murder cases. By holding Somkit on the murder charge, police are suggesting that al-Ruwayli has died—something they had not acknowledged earlier.

According to well-informed police sources, police investigators handling the murder cases suspected that since al-Ruwayli was close to the slain diplomats, he might be able to furnish them with some information. The sources said al-Ruwayli, who lived in the same apartment as one of the diplomats, was picked up by a team of policemen on February 12, 11 days after the murder.

The sources said the policemen took the Saudi to Chimpli Hotel on Phatthanakan Road "for a questioning session". He was later seen taken away in a car to a spot outside Bangkok where he "disappeared". The sources said it was likely that al-Ruwayli was killed after police failed to extract information from him. "And it was impossible that such action was carried out without the green light from their superiors," said one of the sources.

The body of the Saudi businessman, the sources said, could have been incinerated to conceal evidence. The sources said one of the policemen later drove the victim's car to the parking lot of Bangkok Christian Hospital where it was later found.

Pol Gen Sawat said police focused their attention on Pol Lt Col Somkit because he was in charge of the 1990 murder case at the start. Policemen on Thursday searched Somkit's home and a room in Chimpli Hotel where al-Ruwayli was believed to have been taken, but turned up nothing.

Somkit vehemently denied all charges against him and claimed that he was a victim of a fabrication. He charged that "a certain police officer" had gone to the Saudi charge d'affaires who was recuperating from an illness at Bumrungrat Hospital last week with false information about him. Somkit's arrest came as a new twist but still it has not shed any more light on the whole saga. The police chief did not say why police had not chosen to take action against Somkit earlier or how he expected the arrest to unravel the cases.

An informed police source noted that while definitely more than one person was involved in the Saudi's disappearance, it was a big question mark why only Pol Lt Col Somkit was singled out. "It looks like Somkit is going to end up as a scapegoat in order to spare the big fish," he said. He said that by pointing the accusing finger at Pol Lt Col Somkit, Pol Gen Sawat probably hoped to ease the pressure on himself from politicians. Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut has hinted at a possible removal of Pol Gen Sawat because of the Police Department's failure to resolve these and other cases.

Sources familiar with the working of the Police Department told THE NATION that police fumbled in their investigation into the murder cases almost from the very beginning as a result of personal rivalries.

Pol Gen Sawaeng Thirasawat was police director general at the time of the 1990 murder. He appointed Pol Gen Sawat, who was then his deputy, to supervise the investigation at the Police Department level while at the same time he also formed four separate teams of investigators to look into both cases. Each of teams was led by different officers from different units.

"The result was a strong rivalry among these four teams to outdo one another. There was no coordination and there was no sharing of information among the teams," said one source.

The Saudi Embassy in Bangkok often found it confusing to have to hear different stories from different police sources all the time.

In what is seen as a sign of Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's distrust of the Police Department's handling of the cases, the minister on Thursday set up a high-level committee to monitor police investigations into them.

After three years, al-Khujah still has not locked up the embassy, though he cannot offer any guarantee what the future holds for Thai-Saudi relations. "For the time being, we consider our relations with Thailand frozen," he told THE NATION recently.

Paper Criticizes Police Handling of Saudi Cases

BK1201022393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Saudi cases must be brought out in open"]

[Text] There are undoubtedly sufficient grounds for Saudi Arabia to be unhappy, indignant and to adopt a hostile attitude towards this country and its people. Almost three years have passed since their three diplomats were gunned down in broad daylight in Bangkok. The case remains unsolved and the murderers, whose identities are unknown, are still at large. The only suspect arrested, tried and finally acquitted in court for lack of evidence has turned out to be just a "scapegoat." The whole truth about the embezzlement of jewellery worth hundreds of millions of baht stolen from a Saudi prince in Riyadh by a Thai worker and later recovered by the Thai police in an affair in which several police officers have been implicated, is yet to be told in an open and undisguised manner. And the most intriguing of all is the mysterious disappearance of Saudi businessman Muhammad al-Ruwayli almost three years ago. The case remains a mystery. Police performance in dealing with the three cases can be described as—to say the least—deplorable and totally ineffective. Worse still, there appears to be attempts among the higher echelons of the Police Department to cover up the truths, particularly the one about those involved in the jewellery scam in addition to those already implicated. As such, the former police chief who has already retired, Pol Gen [Police General] Sawaeng Thiratwatdi, should bear as much blame as the officers assigned to investigate the cases for his failure to follow them through to the end. The incumbent police chief, Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat, who inherits the three cases from his predecessor is duty-bound to finally unveil the truth. The decision last week by Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut to set up an ad hoc committee to monitor police reinvestigation into the three unresolved cases appears to be very typical of the Thai way of tackling a problem in a non-confrontational manner. Yet the belated move is welcome and should, at least, serve to give a signal to Riyadh that the Thai side is now genuinely serious, as insisted upon by Gen Chawalit, to clear up the cases and to expose the truths. While the main focus of attention is directed at the three Saudi cases, it is disheartening that the Interior Ministry, the Police Department as well as the public—for whatever reason—seem to have lost sight of a related case involving a man, identified as Suwet Harabi, the elder brother of Suchat who was acquitted on charges of killing the three Saudi diplomats. Suwet, like al-Ruwayli, was last seen being taken away by a police team probing the Saudi envoy's murder case and afterwards disappeared without a trace. Apparently because Suwet was insignificant and his existence or non-existence would have no impact on national interests, his case was simply put on ice. It is also possible that his name never appeared in the offical police file at all. The task facing the watchdog committee is, indeed, a daunting one. At stake is not only the prospect of normalisation of relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia and the reopening of the Saudi labour market for Thai workers, but also national prestige and reputation. Therefore, there is no time for foot-dragging or face-saving any more. The faces of those who were involved in wrongdoing and who, because of their misdeeds, had subjected this country to shame and brought hardship to thousands of Thai workers, must be unmasked and brought to book—not just to appease Riyadh, but for the sake of justice. As such, the firm support from the interior minister and the full cooperation from the police are essential ingredients for the success of the committee. Probably overcome by other tasks of more importance and urgency, successive governments over the past few years failed to realise the gravity of the three Saudi cases and accord them due attention. This must not be repeated. It is yet to be seen whether this administration, specifically the interior minister, will be able to fulfill pledges to clear up the mess and bring all the culprits to justice—and not merely produce another "scapegoat."

Police Official: 'No Scapegoats' in Saudi Case

BK1201042793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] Police investigating the alleged murder of a Saudi businessman by a senior police officer in 1990 would not hesitate to summon former police director general Sawaeng Thiratawat for questioning if necessary, Deputy Police Director General Phong-amat Amatyakun said yesterday.

"I can assure you that there will be no scapegoats in this case. I will carry out the investigation in a straight forward manner," he said.

However, Sawaeng had not been linked to the case at this stage.

Pol Gen Phong-amat is chairman of the Police Department team investigating the alleged killing of businessman Muhammad al-Ruwayli.

He said it would be difficult to find firm evidence and witnesses against Pol Lt Col [Police Lieutenant Colonel] Somkit Bunthanom, because almost three years had passed since al-Ruwayli disappeared.

According to findings of an internal police investigation, al-Ruwayli, a partner in a Bangkok-based job placement agency, was last seen being taken from a Bangkok hotel in Somkit's custody in early 1990. Somkit was investigating the fatal shooting of three Saudi diplomats.

The Saudi Embassy asked the Interior Ministry to investigate the disappearance of al-Ruwayli, whose family is closely linked to Saudi royalty, after it had received a tip-off from police sources that he might have been killed by Somkit.

The investigation committee chaired by Phong-amat yesterday questioned three other police investigators who had worked closely with Somkit—Pol Col [Police Colonel] Phiraphon Sunthonket, deputy commander of the Metropolitan Police Bangkok South; Pol Maj [Police Major] Thirawong Klaikaew; and Pol Maj Ananpong Choetkiatsakun.

Another police officer, Pol Col Theppharat Rattanawanit, was summoned for questioning but failed to show up yesterday.

According to investigators, 19 police officers were to be questioned in connection with the alleged murder.

Lack of progress in the investigation of crimes against Saudi citizens angered the Saudi government and strained relations with Thailand.

Chawalit Defends Panel on Saudi Investigations

BK1201044393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Jan 93 p A3

[Text] Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut denied yesterday that the setting up of a screening panel on investigations into four highly-sensitive Saudi cases meant he mistrusted the Police Department's handling of the cases.

The panel headed by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior Ari Wongaraya was set up at Chawalit's order on Friday to speed up the cases which have soured Thai-Saudi relations.

"We just want the investigations to yield clearer results," Chawalit said.

"And it will serve to guarantee to the Police Department that it is being assisted by a superior body while handling the cases" which he said directly affected Thai-Saudi relations.

Chawalit was referring to the murder cases of four Saudi embassy officials—one in 1989 and three in 1990.

Police have also been under pressure to locate the whereabouts of Saudi businessman Muhammad al-Ruwayli who went missing shortly after the 1990 killings. They also have yet to return a large portion of the jewellery stolen and smuggled from a Saudi palace into Thailand by a returning worker.

The minister was speaking to reporters after the first meeting of the panel, whose members include Deputy Police Director General Pol Gen [Police General] Char Ratanatham and a few senior interior officials.

Chawalit said he had ordered the panel to screen the investigations in order to further the probes "without having to fear any influence or worry about saving anyone's face". Charn, who is deputy chairman of the panel, said he expected that the case of the stolen jewellery would be wrapped up first.

Pol Lt Gen [Police Lieutenant General] Chalo Koetthet, who was once in charge of the theft case, and a few other policemen have faced a disciplinary probe following complaints from Riyadh that police had returned only a small portion of the stolen jewellery to the palace. Also, many of the returned valuables were fake, according to the complaints.

Char said his panel would need about a month to review the investigations into the three murder cases of the four Saudi diplomats.

On the disappearance of the Saudi businessman, Char said his panel had yet to receive investigation results from the Police Department.

On Thursday, Police chief Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat ordered the arrest of a senior police investigator, Pol Lt Col Somkhit Bunthanom, in connection with the disappearance.

Somkhit is alleged to be responsible for the mysterious disappearance.

Freed Troops Fear Government Reprisals

BK1101025193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] The anti-Rangoon Karen National Union [KNU] has released 10 Burmese soldiers captured last February during a battle northwest of the guerrillas' Manerplaw headquarters.

They were freed on Friday, four days after the Karen group and its ethnic allies in the National Democratic Front joined three other ethnic and Burmese opposition movements in recognizing the humanitarian principles of the 1948 Geneva conventions.

Ratification binds them to compliance with the four humanitarian agreements in lessening the suffering of war wounded, the treatment of prisoners of war and the protection of civilians in war time. The universal charters also regulate penal prosecutions of protected people in enemy hands during an armed conflict.

KNU spokesman Dr Em Marta said the release of the captives was an "appropriate" first response to the movement's recognition of the conventions.

The prisoners were still in Manerplaw, but were no longer under detention. If a third party could not be found to handle their return home, they would taken back along the guerrillas' secret tracks through the jungle.

Although no independent human rights official had witnessed the release, a group of reporters who were visiting Manerplaw had interviewed them, he said.

Each captive had been given a token payment of Bt [baht] 1OO upon release.

The Karens have tried over the past year to hand Burmese captives over to the International Committee of the Red Cross, but political constraints in Burma have hampered the ICRC's involvement.

Successive military rulers in Rangoon have refused to recognize Burmese troops captured by armed ethnic groups, describing them as deserters and often interrogating and punishing them if they return home.

Marta said the KNU hoped to arrange the release of any future prisoners soon after their capture. The freed men were generally in good health, although one was "physically pale and weak, and will need another 10 days or so to recover."

An 11th captive had died from malaria.

Karen forces captured the men during heavy fighting near Thi Pha Vicho, or Sleeping Dog Hill, last February.

In an interview with THE NATION in November at their detention site, one of the captives, Pvt Saw Naing, 22, from Thapoung township in Irrawaddy Division, said they all wanted to go back to their home villages secretly because they were afraid of government reprisals if officials learned of their capture and release.

He and his colleagues had volunteered to join the Burma Army because they were poor farmers with no means of getting an education.

"The only way we can make a living is to serve in the army," he said.

He had served under the command of Lt Col Than Htay of the 14th Regiment, 66th Division. At least 70 of his colleagues had been killed in the battle around Sleeping Dog Hill before he and his companions were captured.

The group was imprisoned at that time in a tall wooden cage along with seven alleged criminals at a Karen outpost about 5 kilometres north of Manerplaw.

Although they looked frail and malnourished when THE NATION spoke to them then, there were no obvious signs of torture or maltreatment.

Some were obviously affected by malaria and others had battle wounds, but had already recovered after treatment by a visiting American medic shortly after their capture.

Paper on Moei River Border Dispute With Burma

BK1001040093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Jan 93 p A8

[Text] Nature has thrown a spanner in the works for Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan with some help from Man. Surin who chairs the Thai-Burmese Boundary Commission went on an inspection tour of the northern province of Tak last weekend to pay special attention to the Moei River. That river flows through the Tak and Mae Hong Son provinces and acts as a natural boundary between Thailand and Burma.

Over the years the river has washed away parts of Thailand territory to the advantage of Burma's Myawaddy as a result of the construction of waterbreakers, Surin was told by Tak officials who led him on an inspection of the affected parts of the river.

The tale of the tit for tat measures taken by both sides started in 1978 when Myawaddy villagers constructed bamboo waterbreakers to protect their side of the bank from the strong currents of the Moei River. This caused the river to alter course and wear away the bank on the Thai side, triggering a spate of quarrels between Thai and Burmese villagers, Surin was told. But the Burmese provincial authorities refused to settle the problem prompting the Thai villagers to build their own waterbreakers with a budget allocated by the provincial authority.

Not to be outdone, the Burmese reinforced their existing structures and built a series of larger ones along the Moei, the officials said. Several rounds of talks between local authorities of both sides all ended in failure. Now the score is 21 waterbreakers on the Burmese side to 11 for the Thais. The structures are mostly opposite each other. The villagers depend on simple construction materials, mainly bamboo for their waterbreakers.

According to international law, a waterbreaker should be built as close to a river's bank as possible, with the objective of protecting it from erosion.

Surin saw for himself a Burmese waterbreaker smack in the middle of the Moei River, opposite Tak's Tha At village.

Tak authorities in 1991 failed in their attempts to persuade Burma to remove the offending waterbreaker, with Rangoon claiming that the disputed bamboo poles were in its territory. That particular waterbreaker wreaked havoc on the Thai side of the bank, when it turned the course of the river. The currents swept away large portions of the river bank at Tha At.

One of the officials told Surin that the problem was finally brought to the attention of the Foreign Ministry. The then Burmese ambassador to Thailand U Nyunt Swe discussed the issue with the Foreign Ministry in the early 1980s and later with the Supreme Command Headquarters. Eventually the Supreme Command managed to bring about an agreement in which both sides agreed that they would suspend construction of new waterbreakers and only reinforce the existing ones. Both countries agreed to set up a joint panel to settle the problem, the official said adding that Burma however has yet to appoint members to the proposed panel.

A senior Thai military officer who did not want to be identified estimated that Thailand had lost, since the first waterbreaker was built, not to less than 400 rai of land while a document prepared by Tak authorities said only 20 rai had washed away. Nobody could explain this discrepancy.

At a meeting of the Thai-Burmese Border Commission last year Burma, regardless of the 1980s agreement, rejected a Thai request to stop the continued construction of a waterbreaker opposite the Tha Hon area and remove the materials. Burma claimed that Thailand had also built its own waterbreakers, and anyway they were under orders to carry on with their work. Burma then challenged Thailand to bring the case to the Burmese Foreign Ministry.

An informed source meanwhile said there are three Burmese waterbreakers each opposite Tha At and Mae Thao villages, seven opposite Rim Muey village with another eight opposite Huay Muang village. Some of them stretch for about 100 metres, while Thailand's are only about 30-40 metres in length, the same source said.

A precinct leader, Rat Kontchana, said that his house was now in Burmese territory although it was built in Thailand along the river bank. He blamed a Burmese waterbreaker upstream and Thai provincial officials for his problem.

"I observed the river changing direction for long time, separating my house and land from the Thai side. I alerted the provincial authorities but nothing was done," Rat said.

He kept on updating the officials on the situation but they ignored him, resulting in his house and land ending up in Burma. Finally he was forced to abandon his properties, Rat said angrily.

Another Thai military source meanwhile said Burma had also suffered soil erosion in that area following the construction of the waterbreakers but he did not reveal how much. But the Thai loss was greater. Thailand this year will spend about Bt [baht] 16 million to build stone walls at its river bank, to prevent further soil erosion. The construction of stone walls would not break the agreement reached by the Supreme Command and it would not change the river's direction, the source claimed.

Thai officials at the seventh meeting of Regional Border Commission (RBC) in Chiang Mai province informed the Burmese side of Thailand's intended move. Surin, Democrat MP of Nakhon Si Thammarat province, said he would try to settle the conflict as quickly as possible. He suggested that negotiations should be conducted at a government-to-government level for both countries to finally endorse plans for future construction of waterbreakers, before the actual works start.

He also repeated his earlier call for the countries to have a permanent team to inspect any disputed area. At this stage, he said, an inspection team should be formed for the 385-kilometre long Moei River. Surin made the call when he, as cochairman of Thai-Burmese Boundary Commission, has to handle another border issue over a hill in Chumphon's Tha Sae district. Burma laid claim to the hill which it re-occupied from Karen guerillas early last year. There are no demarcations on the hill with its watershed regarded as the border line.

The problem of Moei River facing Surin does not only stem from the waterbreakers but also from small islands in the middle of its waters. The same officer said that according to international law no country should occupy any island in the middle of a body of water which serves as a border. He explained that the soil from the erosion gradually form islands that become "no man's land" close to the river bank of an adjacent country which usually laid claim to it, sparking protests from its neighbour.

At the 4th RBC meeting, Thai side proposed using the river bank as the border line instead of its deepest points. However, Burma insisted that a joint inspection team survey the river first before the Thai request is entertained. In the meantime Surin is left juggling the hot potatoes, wondering about Burma's next move.

Vietnam

Liaison Office in Seoul Upgraded to Embassy

BK1201072993 Hanoi VNA in English 0615 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 12—The Vietnamese Liaison Office in Seoul has been elevated to an embassy.

A ceremony was held last friday for this purpose. Vietnam and the Republic of Korea established full diplomatic relations on Dec. 22, 1992.

Chamber of Commerce Opening in U.S. Reported

BK1101144193 Hanoi VNA in English 1428 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—A Vietnamese-American Chamber of Commerce (VACC) has been set up in New York to help accelerate trade and other business ties between the U.S. and Vietnam.

An independent organization, the chamber includes in its membership businessmen, bankers and lawyers operating in the U.S. who are seeking to invest in and do business with Vietnam. By the end of last year, it had drawn in about 20 companies, including major corporations in the fields of construction, aviation and fertilizer production.

Another purpose of the chamber is to provide a forum for American and Vietnamese Government officials and businessmen to exchange and discuss information concerning Americans' investment in Vietnam.

A VACC delegation is expected to be in Vietnam from Feb. 8-12 to begin the first investment and business visit ever by American businessmen and investors to this country.

Premier Issues Directive on Tet Celebration

BK1101070793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Prime Minister's directive on organizing New Year and Festival celebrations, issued 2 January]

[Text] To provide better service on Tet Quy Dau [Year of the Rooster] and help our people celebrate the new year and festival joyfully, healthily, and economically, the prime minister instructs:

1. Chiefs of central organs and chairmen of people committees at all levels to draw plans for a joyful, healthy, and thrifty Tet celebration in all of their organs and localities. Every locality and organ must satisfactorily organize visits to the injured and sick soldiers, the relatives of fallen combatants, families which had rendered meritorious service to the revolution, families which suffered damage in natural calamities, the needy with no dependents, and soldiers of the Armed Forces, especially those deployed in border areas and islands. Depending on the situation and demands, each locality and unit should organize sports and cultural activities for the public.

The get-togethers and visits must meet the principles of happiness, practicality, and thrift without lavish drinking and eating. The responsible state organs are to coordinate with mass organizations to educate and motivate the public to celebrate Tet economically. At the same time, they should increase inspections to promptly prevent and deal with erroneous and illegal activities that result in excessive spending of public funds and damage to social order and safety.

2. The cultural, information, sports, and physical education sectors should hold cheerful, entertaining, healthy, and useful activities to meet the cultural needs of the public, especially youths and teenagers, during the new year, holidays, and festival. Gambling, drug abuse, and the screening of banned movies should be eradicated.

3. The commercial, service, and transport sectors should expand their business to balance market demand, meet the public need for extra shopping, and stabilize market prices. Electricity and water, medical treatment, and fire prevention and fighting services must assign enough personnel to timely deal with emergency cases and guarantee the people's need for production and a livelihood in the new year.

The law must be adhered to in goods production and circulation, including fire crackers and cigarettes. All state organs responsible for market inspection and control must quickly uncover and resolutely deal with organizations and individuals involved in smuggling, commodity speculation, the trading of fake goods, and other illegal dealings. The market inspection and control must conform to the law and must not interfere with the circulation of legal commodities. Those at stationary or mobile inspection checkpoints are strictly prohibited from causing difficulties and arbitrarily collecting unauthorized fees.

4. The labor, war invalids, and social welfare sector and the finance and banking service must satisfactorily apply policies on wages, bonuses, pensions, and social benefits. They must also intensify supervision of the spending and payment to the National Budget of all organs and units. In state-run economic units, the bonus payment must be based on business results, labor productivity, and the performance of each worker. Bonuses which exceed profits, productivity, and performance of the economic unit are banned. The administration and non-profit sector must use the fund as allocated and not for bonus payments. Year-end meetings to review work performance must be well supervised and should only take the necessary amount of time and required number of participants. They must observe regulations issued by the prime minister.

Chiefs of central organs and chairmen of people committees at all levels are responsible for preventing and dealing with arbitrary, excessive, and unregulated bonus payments and gifts.

5. The people's security force must apply measures to guarantee safety and order for people to enjoy the new year and festival. It should closely coordinate with schools, youth unions, and teenage and children brigades and tell them not to be play dangerous games. Those who set off crackers in crowded areas, who throw crackers at people, and who cause embarrassment should be strictly punished. The use of weapons to create explosions must be banned.

All state organs, units, enterprises, villages, and subwards should organize activities to safely protect the state, collective, and the property of individuals and quickly deal with the urgent problems that arise in their establishments.

Journalists' Association To Hold Festival

BK1101143393 Hanoi VNA in English 1426 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—The Vietnam Journalists' Association announced here today that it will organize a spring press festival in mid-January.

The association's deputy secretary general, Tran Cong Man, said that the festival will be the first ever held nation-wide in Vietnam and that so far 200 newspapers and magazines have registered their participation. The festival is scheduled from Jan. 15-17.

He also said from now on, national press festivals will be held periodically on the Tet (lunar new year) occasion and will serve as a forum for journalists to meet and share experiences.

Premier Issues Directive on Public Funds

BK0801160193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 Jan 93

["Text" of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's 5 January Directive on Use of Public Funds; read by announcer]

[Text] At present, the wasteful use of public funds is still prevalent, especially money used by state agencies, business establishments, and socioeconomic organizations to hold ceremonial functions that bring no concrete results to the economy. At the time when our budget is restrictive, our people's standard of living is poor, and those who rely on social welfare face difficulties, we should strive to stop wasteful expenditures. This is because if this practice is still going on it will not only create indignation among the people but will also encourage cadres to become degenerate and to engage in embezzlement.

In addition to launching a campaign to oppose corruption, waste, and misappropriation of budget in capital construction, the Prime Minister has issued directive no. 171-TTG dated 16 December 1992 urging administrative agencies to save budget for urgent economic, cultural, and social welfare projects while promoting thrift among the people.

The Prime Minister instructs various sectors, echelons, state agencies, and socioeconomic organizations to immediately carry out the following tasks:

1. To carefully formulate concrete frameworks for national conferences held to review tasks, to discuss commemoration of founding anniversaries of sectors and units, or to map out plans for symposiums. This is aimed at saving time and minimizing expenditures needed by these conferences. Conferences organized to review tasks are necessary, but their agenda should be focused on profound discussions of issues concerned to draw on concrete experiences for future action. Efforts should be made to hold regional or local conferences to exchange views and experiences to reduce the number of national conferences. Conferences organized to formulate plans for the commemoration of anniversaries or to discuss new tasks should also be held in localities with guidance and supervision provided by the higher echelons. When dissemination of resolutions or other documents are necessary to solicit ideas from localities, efforts should be made to hold regional or local conferences to directly discuss their viewpoints on the issues concerned. This will help to reduce the number of provincial or national conferences.

For the central agencies, if they want to hold national conferences, they must clearly report to the Prime Minister the nature and agenda of their conferences to ask for his approval. Conferences organized by provinces and municipalities will be the responsibility of the people's committee chairmen of that province or municipality.

2. Regarding the chain of command. From now on, officials of the higher echelons must pay special attention to the lower echelons. They must pay working visits to localities and grass-roots units. Efforts should be made to reduce too many conferences convened by the higher echelons with the participation of the lower echelons. This is because sometime the lower echelons are short of officials to attend such conferences due to their tight work schedules. It is necessary for officials of the higher echelons to pay working visits to localities, especially the grass-roots units, to directly and firmly grasp the situation there so as to help effectively resolve pressing issues in their areas while being able to detect major problems to promptly map out plans to resolve them.

However, the assigning of cadres to localities must stem from real requirements. Expected results and duration of their trips should be carefully discussed to avoid unecessary expenditures and inconveniences to the lower echelons. Cadres assigned to localities must formulate their work program and file reports to their supervisors after the completion of their trips. Officials of the higher echelons, including the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet, prior to their trips to localities, should carefully prepare and inform localities concerned of their work schedules. Efforts must be made to avoid organizing wasteful welcoming ceremonies and expensive feasts for these officials. Normal activities should be maintained during the visit of these officials. In localities where the local people are facing numerous difficulties, all unnecessary expenditures to be used for these official visits should be cut off. Efforts should also be made to save money spent in buying airplane, railway, or bus tickets for these officials. Consideration should be given to the nature of these officials' work assignments rather than their ranks to determine their means of transportation.

3. Delegations on official trips abroad: Of late, the number of delegations on official trips abroad has increased sharply. The results obtained by them have, however, been minimal because of poor organization and management, given their composition and the selection of places for visit. This has caused a waste of time and foreign currency, as well as inconvenience for host countries.

From now on, we should select suitable members for those delegations sent to conduct research or attend seminars abroad and should pay more attention to the question of how long and where a visit is to be made. The heads of those public organs having delegations sent on official trips abroad should take responsibiity before their superiors for the sending of cadres abroad for official business. They should refrain from sending those cadres whose duties have nothing to do with purposes of a visit. This is because, on returning home, these people would not work in the field on which they have studied and held seminars. A higher-echelon management organ should not impose its will on or tell lower-echelons to include its men in the latter's delegation without any justifiable resons.

4. Funds designed to buy equipment, stationery, or to cover expenditures for social functions: It is generally required that while ensuring necessary operating requirements, we should strictly economize on spending money on various cases such as buying equipment for house decoration, holding conferences, and receptions of guests.

Those state assets placed under the disposal of an organ or an unit should be closely managed and thriftily used for the right purposes. In buying real estate property, carrying out major house repairs, building small-scale housing projects, and buying work-related resources, including cars, administrative and service organs should have their plans and budget estimates ratified by authoritative echelons. They should refrain from buying equipment which we can produce locally of an acceptable quality.

The Ministry of Finance is reponsible for closely controlling the use of those assets owned by the state at various sectors, echelons, organs, and units, including public organs and units stationed overseas.

During meetings, seminars, and receptions hosted by administrative, service organs, the Armed Forces, and state enterprises, we should use our home-made products such as tea, mineral water, coffee, and fruits and should avoid treating guests with foreign-made cigarette, beers, and wines, except for cases where foreign wines are needed such as when signing an agreement with a foreign country and receiving a state-level foreign visitor.

We should refrain from smoking cigarettes during meetings and receptions or in public places.

From now on, state employees at all levels should strictly comply with a decision banning foreign brands of cigarettes by abstaining from smoking foreign-made cigarettes. If found in violation of this, they would face administrative penalty.

5. Responsibility for the control of administrative expenditures: Based on the abovementioned stipulations, the Ministry of Finance should promptly issue its detailed guidance for the strict enforcement of thrift against wasteful spending while ensuring expenditures most needed for daily activities. Each sector, each locality, and each unit should draw up and enforce detailed regulations governing expenditures needed for meetings, operations, reception, financial and property management at those organs and units under its relevant sector.

Central-level organs, mass organizations, and social organs are requested to order their lower echelons to practice thrift in the same manner as said above and should join with the government in creating a thrifty way of life in the entire society.

Ministries and sectors under the central authority should reexamine those documents, systems, and policies within their responsibility so as to promptly revise them in order to effectively avert the existing wasteful use of property and public funds.

At each organ and unit, the unit leader, the inspector, or the senior accountant concerned should take responsibility for wrongdoings or violations in wasteful spending of public funds within his relevant organ or unit.

Cabinet ministers, heads of governmental agencies, and the chairmen of the people's committees of provinces and cities under central authority are charged with monitoring and promptly dealing with wrongdoings or violations committed by those organizations and individuals under their jurisdiction. They can be held jointly responsible for these wrongdoings or violations.

The Ministry of Finance, the State Inspectorate, and the Ministry of Interior should detect, avert, and promptly and sternly deal with cases of wasteful use of public funds. They should take severe administrative measures against those involved in serious cases and, in cooperation with responsible organs, bring them to trial.

For the sake of building a law-governing, clean, and effective state apparatus and to preserve and develop our people's tradition of frugality in accordance with Uncle Ho's teaching of being diligent, frugal, honest, and righteous, the government hereby earnestly asks National Assembly deputies, people's councils at various levels, fatherland front committees, the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers, and other mass organizations to intensify their supervision over state organs, business enterprises, and socioeconomic organizations in the use of public funds.

The mass media should promptly commend and encourage organizations and individuals for their good examples in practicing thrift and at the same time, should discover and bring to light organizations and individuals found violating those stipulations covered in this directive.

Upon receipt of this directive, cabinet ministers and the heads of ministerial-level agencies and other government agencies, and the people's committees of those provinces and cities under the central authority should organize an indoctrination drive for all civil servants and workers within their units to seek to understand and scrupulously comply with this directive, particularly during the Year-of-the-Rooster Lunar New Year, and report to the prime minister on their plans for implementation of this directive.

[Signed] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet

French Parliamentary Committee Visits 6 Jan

BK1001093893 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Accepting the invitation of our National Assembly's National Defense and Security Committee, a parliamentary delegation of National Defense Committee of the Republic of France led by Parliamentarian Jean (?Prepaire) paid a working visit to our country on 6 January.

The delegation held talks with our National Assembly's National Defense and Security Committee and visited a number of localities. In the afternoon of 9 January, Dang Quan Thuy, National Assembly vice chairman and chairman of the National Assembly's National Defense and Security Committee, warmly received the delegation and had cordial talks with them.

Vice chairman Dang Quan Thuy welcomed the delegation's working visit to Vietnamese National Assembly National Defense and Security Committee. The two committees exchanged working experiences and discussed measures to enhance the cooperative relationship. The Vice Chairman wished the cooperative relationship between the two parliaments and peoples in general, between the two parliament committees for national defense and security in particular, to be strengthened and developed constantly, so as to contribute to the peace, stability, and prosperity of both countries and of the world as a whole.

Speaking for the delegation, Parliamentarian Jean (?Prepaire) thanked our National Assembly and people of Vietnam for the opportunity to visit and work comfortably with the concerned agencies. He highly valued the experiences of our National Assembly National Defense and Security Committee and expressed his expectation for the cooperation between the two committees to be strengthened and developed constantly, so as to actively contribute to the broadening of the friendship relationship between the two peoples of Vietnam and France.

Premier Receives Cambodian Minister 11 Jan

BK1101144993 Hanoi VNA in English 1431 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—Vietnam has done and will do its best in communication and transport in its territory as requested by Cambodia, said Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to the visiting Cambodian minister of communications transport and Post, So Khun.

The Vietnamese leader said Vietnam and Cambodia should find out new fields for long and short-term cooperation in conformity with the needs of each country and the practical situation in Cambodia and in the spirit of mutual understanding and assistance.

For his part, Minister So Khun informed the Vietnamese prime minister of the results of his working sessions with the Vietnamese Minstry of Communications and Transport and the Directorate General of Post and Telecommunication on the two countries' continued cooperation in railway management, locomotive repair, personnel training, and the opening of a digital microwave link between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh. He said that the two sides have also agreed to broaden their cooperation in the future and that, despite Cambodia's current difficulties, he hoped that the fine feelings and mutual assistance between Vietnam and Cambodia will continue to be consolidated and developed so as to contribute to peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in the region.

General Doan Khue's Ap Bac Speech Noted

BK0901102493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 7 Jan 93

[From "Press Review" program]

[Text] Today's QUAN DOI NHAN DAN newspaper carries a speech by General Doan Khue, minister of national defense, at the ceremony to mark the Ap Bac victory.

After reviewing the reverberant military victory of Ap Bac in our fight for national protection, Comrade Doan Khue stressed that the Ap Bac victory is a noble example of Vietnam's revolutionary heroism, a brilliant mark in our history of national liberation wars under the leadership of the party and beloved President Ho Chi Minh, and a pride of many Vietnamese's generations.

Le Phuoc Tho's Article on Party Building Noted

BK0901100593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 7 Jan 93

[From the "Press Review" program]

[Text] As regards the party building issue, today's NHAN DAN newspaper carries the first part of Comrade Le Phuoc Tho's article entitled "Some issues arising in the implementation of party renovation and rectification".

After four months of implementing the Third Party Central Committee Resolution, some party echelons still have not really believed in the result of the resolution on party renovation and rectification, especially the result of the fight against corruption, smuggling, and other negative phenomena. Moreover, the resolution has not been applied uniformly in all localities. Generally speaking, the documents from central level aimed at providing concrete guidance on the application of the resolution have been issued slowly and inconsistently.

At present, some party committees are weak, with the activities of party chapters of a poor quality. Bureaucratism and the attitude of staying aloof from the public have been overcome slowly. And the conscious implementation of the resolution has not been very strong. In many places, party members have not been assigned definite duties. Many localities and establishments are still unable to decide what to do. And governments at all levels are slow in issuing documents relating to government responsibilities which were decided by the party.

The article also mentions some issues which are worth noting in regard to the implementation of the Third Party Central Committee Resolution. It says the sense of responsibility should be heightened. Party renovation and rectification must be coordinate with socioeconomic development duties. The reform of the management structure must be related to public movements. And in the implementation process of the resolution, important tasks and points must be focussed on with more guidance.

5.4 Tons of Crude Oil Exported in 1992

BK0801135293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] As of the end of December 1992, the Oil and Natural Gas Import-Export Company exported more than 5.4 million tons of crude oil, overfulfilling its 1992 export plan.

In 1992, the company supplied the domestic market with nearly 800,000 tons of gasoline and diesel, 70,000 tons of fertilizer, insecticide, raw materials, and spare parts for oil and natural gas joint ventures, Vinh Son Hydroelectricity Power Station, and other economic units. The company's 1992 import-export volume exceeded 1 billion U.S. dollars.

Australia

Canberra Objects to U.S. Wheat Sale to Pakistan

BK1201004693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0036 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] CANBERRA, Jan 12 (AFP)—Australia will protest to the United States about its plans to subsidise the sale of 550,000 tonnes of wheat to Pakistan, the government said Tuesday.

Acting Trade Minister John Kerin and Primary Industries Minister Simon Crean described the proposed sale as "unnecessary" and said it disproved U.S. claims that its Export Enhancement Program (EEP) was used to fight subsidised sales by the European Community.

"The E.C. has a negligent presence in the Pakistan market," the ministers said in a joint statement.

"Australia will raise the matter immediately with the Bush administration and the incoming Clinton administration" to register "its strongest objections," they added.

In September, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating warned President George Bush that use of the EEP had "a corrosive impact" on relations between the two countries.

Keating's remarks, in a letter published by his office here, followed a pledge by Bush during his campaign for re-election that the EEP would be extended to sales of 30 million tonnes of wheat to 28 countries.

In their statement, Kerin and Crean said Australia would ask the administration of President-elect Bill Clinton to set EEP bonuses to an absolute minimum.

Pakistan is an important commercial market which took 200,000 tonnes of Australian wheat last season, they said.

"The government is concerned at the implications for projected sales of a further 400,000 tonnes of Australian white milling wheat worth around 100 million dollars (67 million U.S.)" they said.

"With a worldwide shortage of milling-quality wheat at present, additional subsidised sales by the U.S. to a strong commercial market like Pakistan are quite unnecessary," they said.

"This initiative clearly demonstrates that the EEP is no longer being principally used to to combat subsidised E.C. wheat sales," they said.

Kerin is deputising for Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans, who is in Europe, while Crean's department is responsible for agricultural production in Australia.

The managing director of the Australian Wheat Board, John Lawrenson, accused the United States of "cynically" exploiting a recent bout of bad weather in Australia.

"The Washington bureaucrats have simply assumed that because Australia has had a wet harvest it either could not or would not supply Pakistan with wheat," Lawrenson said in a statement.

"In fact, Australia has a letter of intent to sell 600,000 tonnes of wheat to Pakistan this year and only a fraction of that business has been completed.

"My judgement now is that Pakistan will make use of this latest U.S. offer of subsidy rather than complete the business with Australia."

Evans To Sign Paris Chemical Weapons Treaty

BK1201074493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans will arrive in Paris tomorrow where he will put Australia's name on a landmark treaty to ban chemical weapons. Mark Tamhane reports, Australian officials say the convention is a diplomatic coup for Canberra.

[Begin recording] [Tamhane] Officials say negotiations were stalled until Australia began a major diplomatic effort to conclude the treaty. Countries which agree to the new convention will have to destroy any existing weapons within 10 years. It bans for all time the use and possession of chemical weapons. Senator Evans says it is unlikely countries will be able to cheat once they ratify the treaty.

[Evans] Far more than any other arms control agreement in history, it will involve teams of inspectors going into very, very sensitive areas in many countries. It is that, that I think gives the countries confidence that their neighbors, once they have signed up to this treaty, won't in fact be able to do the same things we've seen happening in recent years in Iraq and Iran (?on the side). [end recording]

MP Arrested in Protest as U.S. Fleet Arrives

BK0901031093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0250 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] SYDNEY, Jan 9 (AFP)—New South Wales state MP Richard Jones was among five people arrested during a demonstration against U.S. warships in Sydney Harbour Saturday, but later released without charge. Jones, 52, said he intended filing a complaint to the police minister over an incident in which he claims a state police boat ran over his kayak, overturning it.

The protest, over U.S. refusal to say whether any of its five ships was nuclear-armed, involved about 30 peace activists in kayaks and small boats. Hundreds of protesters also lined the harbour foreshore as the fleet, including the 81,000-tonne aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ranger sailed in.

The activists, from groups called the Sydney Peace Squadron and Paddlers for Peace, claimed the Ranger and its four escorts had come directly from the Gulf and Somalia and almost certainly carried nuclear weapons.

Jones, who represents the environmentalist Australian Democrats party, claimed police singled him out for arrest even though he had not provoked them.

"They deliberately and consciously ran me over," he said. "I got rescued by naval police from the state police."

Jones said he would present photographic evidence of the police boat running over his kayak.

"I was hanging upside down under the kayak. I was literally worried about drowning. I was absolutely, totally appalled by the police action."

A police spokesman said he had not received full details yet and could not comment. Despite the protest, hundreds of Sydney residents were expected to offer hospitality to some of the 6,500 U.S. sailors and marines on board through a dial-a-sailor/marine hotline.

Traders also welcomed the Americans, anticipating good business from the servicemen.

Sydney Peace Squadron spokeswoman, Hannah Middleton said the aircraft carrier had nuclear bombs aboard.

"We could have something that would be far worse than Chernobyl, far worse than what we're seeing in the Shetlands at the moment, and they call this a goodwill visit," said Middleton.

Solomon Islands

Talks on Relations With PNG Begin in Honiara

BK1101064093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Talks between Papua New Guinea [PNG] and Solomon Islands have opened in Honiara. Erina Reddan from our South Pacific bureau reports that the talks are to heal a four-month rift between the neighbors as a result of the Bougainville rebellion.

[Begin Reddan recording] Officials from PNG and Solomon Islands are meeting in Honiara to get the relationship between the traditional close neighbors back on a better footing. The relationship has been strained over the spill over effects of the Bougainville conflict and contact has been almost nonexistent since PNG soldiers killed two Solomon Islanders in a cross-border raid last September.

The three-day talks are expected to revive a memorandum of understanding on policing the common border and the future of an office sympathetic to independence for Bougainville in Honiara. The talks are the first step towards an eventual meeting between the two prime ministers. The Solomon Islands delegation is led by the permanent secretary for foreign affairs, (Wilson Isanura), and the delegation from PNG by his counterpart, (Gabriel Dusarba). PNG's high commissioner to Solomon Islands, (Frank Niro), will also join the talks. [end recording]

Western Samoa

Central Bank Reports Exports Quadruple

BK3112071892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Apia, Dec 30 (AFP)—The value of Western Samoa's exports in the first nine months of 1992 have quadrupled over the same period last year, the Central Bank reported Wednesday.

Exports in the first nine months of the year were worth 54.3 million tala (22.2 million U.S. dollars), despite a drop in earnings from traditional exports of taro and coconut cream.

The bank said the big jump follows a "substantial" rise in the export of automotive wire harnesses used in new car assembly. A Japanese company, Yazaki, opened a plant here last year.

Its exports account for 82 percent of total exports.

Most of the wiring is exported to Australia, consequently most of Western Samoa's exports went to that country. The bank said this was a "marked change from the same period of 1991".

"The proportion of exports that were directed to New Zealand fell from 48.6 percent last year to 7.8 percent this year and the share of exports to all other countries declined," the bank said in its quarterly report.

Export earnings from taro halved to 2.9 million tala (1.1 million dollars) due to an export ban earlier in the year following December 1991's Cyclone Val.

Coconut cream earnings dropped to 2.8 million tala (1.1 million dollars) [figures as received], mainly because of shortages caused by cyclone damaged coconut trees.